

PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE

THE FELS OF LONGLANDS



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Pennsylvania Heritage
The Fells of Longlands

By

BLANCHE CRAIG

A great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin Fell and
Historian of the Fell Association of
Western Pennsylvania

MAY 1959

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much information on Longlands, the ancient home of the Fells, also of the family remaining in England, was given me by the late Mrs. Joseph Fawcett of Longlands, Uldale, Carlisle, England. My thanks are also due her son-in-law and daughter, George and Hannah Park, of Ireby, who provided more information and photographs. Credit for a number of photographs is due Mr. Fred Keller, of Alcos Research Laboratories, who reproduced those in the "Genealogy" of 1891. Thanks are also due the librarians in the Pennsylvania Room, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, who introduced me to many old books and records pertaining to Fell activities in Eastern Pennsylvania. Thanks are also due some members of the family for various items of interest.

Credit for the book's background is due those three Fell cousins, Eliza, Sarah and Joseph Fell, whose researches and efforts resulted in publication of "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America" in 1891, which culminated three years of struggle by an earlier Fell Association.

Blanche Craig

Tarentum, Pennsylvania
February, 1959

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INTRODUCTION

In a world storm-tossed and confused, an outstanding human value is love of home and family. Not castle nor stately hall with broad lands, but a farm home on a modest acreage, — such was Longlands, ancient home of the Fells in England's beautiful Lake Country of Cumberland. No records are available as to when the first stones and timbers were raised of the house that received major repairs and enlargement in 1688, but it is still a home today, though no longer owned by a Fell. The oldest deeds, now extant, call the house "Lower Longlands." To it have turned the thoughts of many American Fells and some have visited it in the past sixty years. The ideas and ideals of those who once occupied it have inspired their descendants for two hundred and fifty years.

In 1705, Joseph and Bridget Wilson Fell, with two little sons, then living in Chapel House in adjacent Ireby, sailed for Pennsylvania, bearing letters to Friends who had preceded them. Two daughters were born in Pennsylvania, Bridget dying eleven days after Mary's birth. Three years later, Joseph Fell married Elizabeth Doyle, known both for her beauty and her eloquence as a Quaker minister. Seven children were born to them in Buckingham, and in later generations there were marriages between descendants of Bridget and Elizabeth Fell.

Joseph prospered moderately, being by his own statement "neither rich nor poor". On Dec. 6, 1744, he wrote an account of his life for his children and grandchildren. For a half-century and more it lay unnoticed in an attic in the home of a descendant, and was not printed until the "Genealogy" was published in 1891.

Joseph Fell became one of the "pillars" of Buckingham Meeting of the Society of Friends, where his

son Benjamin was, for fifteen years, one of nine accredited ministers of Buckingham, as was also Elizabeth Doyle Fell. In 1725, Joseph became a member of the Provincial Council, founded by William Penn in 1682. That he was a reader is shown by the books he bequeathed in his will.

“The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America” is itself a tribute to the qualities of the Fells, since tracing family history that had gone unnoted for almost 200 years was a task herculean. Too much credit cannot be given Eliza, Sarah, and Joseph Fell who put the history in print in the last decade of the 19th century. That book lists some 7,000 descendants of Joseph Fell with three lines missing and others incomplete. The generations since number far too many for another “Genealogy”, but the wealth of material on the ancient habitat in England, the records of some descendants in America, merits telling for present and future generations. In the main it is a record of sturdy, industrious, God-loving folk absorbed in toil of heart, hand and brain. That the majority are no longer Quakers detracts not at all from their heritage. Typical of the independent mind characterizing the Lake Country people, sometime in the 18th century the British Fells returned to the Church of England, and two — both named Richmond Fell — became priests of that church. One lies beneath the chancel of Uldale Old Church, where Joseph’s parents were married on February 8, 1647. A few Fells are Quakers today, but most of Joseph’s descendants are Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Episcopalians, with a few Catholics and a few Unitarians.

With honest pride in the Fells, and the hope future records may be clear and true, PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE is offered as an inspiration for courageous living, high thinking, and genuine patriotism.

CHAPTER I.

THE BRITISH BACKGROUND OF THE FELLS

THEIR HOME

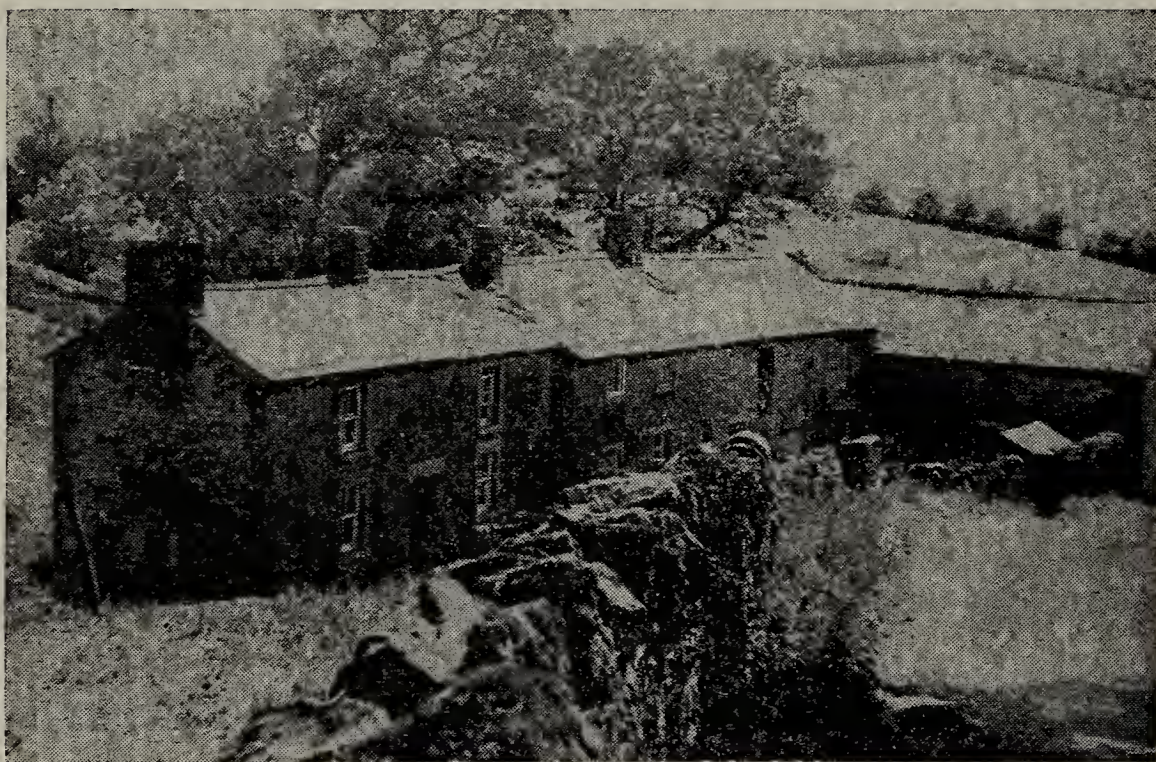
The Fells derive their name from their habitat — the mountainous Lake Country of northwest England. Of Scandinavian origin, the word means mountain, and the mountains of the Lake Country are called “the fells”.

The Lake Country was a “melting pot” of races. There, from the first Roman invasions of England, fled some of the Early Britons (the Welsh of today), only to meet the Romans again in the great walls thrown up against the Picts. In time, their children’s blood mingled with that of the Roman soldiers. The Scotch constantly made forays across the Solway, some of them settling permanently in the Lake Country. Later came the Vikings, leaving a lasting impress on people and land. The independence and lack of class distinctions characteristic of the people undoubtedly came from a strong infusion of Viking blood. The sturdy “statesmen” (estatesmen) of Cumberland and Westmorland scorned servility and cherished independence of thought and life. That explains why George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, won so many adherents in the Lake Country in the 17th century. This same independence later caused many of their descendants to return to the Church of England.

Though Carlisle had long been a famous Border city, and Keswick a slowly-growing town from the 13th century, there had been no great influx of people into the Lake Country after the Viking invasion. Not till the 18th century did the beauty of its mountains and lakes appeal to travelers, the district’s compara-

tive isolation further contributing to the self-sufficiency and independence of the people.

Longlands, ancient home of the Fells, took its name from the tiny hamlet of Longlands in the parish of Uldale, ten miles from Keswick, seventeen from Carlisle. One of three old houses in the hamlet had been built in the 1500s; a fourth, Stanthwaite House, lay but a short distance away. Originally, two or three



LOWER LONGLANDS—Ancient home of the Fells in England, rebuilt and enlarged in 1688. The mountain, Longlands Fell, a British-U. S. training ground in World War II, is at the rear.

large cottages joined together to make a typical English country-house, it became the home of one Rev. Richmond Fell, and later, of his daughter, Mrs. Burgess and family. It was from them Eliza Fell received the various views of Longlands shown in the "Genealogy" of 1891, also a copy of the coat-of-arms.

Longlands, the home of Joseph Fell had stood perhaps two centuries prior to the major repairs and enlargement made by Joseph's older brother John in

1688; this date is still legible over one of the ancient doorways. The Fells are known to have been in the Lake Country for more than six centuries; perchance some of their forbears were there in the days of Roman occupation! Longlands lies nine miles from Derwentwater, one mile from tiny Overwater.

The house is a long, solidly-built structure of sandstone; its long-worn stone stairway was replaced some years ago by one of wood, turned at an opposite angle from the original. The diamond-paned windows were long ago replaced by modern ones, but the kitchen fire-place (in lieu of a cookstove) survived until 1951, when a new tile fire-place — also for cooking — was installed. The ancient fire-place was probably an improvement over many of that today, for its ashes dropped to a container in the basement, which then housed the dairy, long since brought up to the floor level at one end of the home. The old dairy is now used only for storage. The rooms are large with four bedrooms and a narrow hall on the second floor. Within, the house has been beautifully kept by the Jackson family, who have lived in it some years. Outside, part of the walls have been covered with rough-cast; all of them should be, for in the fierce mountain storms that sweep down Longlands Fell, just behind the house, water sometimes seeps through the unsheathed walls.

The ancient sycamores at the rear fell victims to World War II, reputedly in the making of swift British boats. A few young survivors are left to grow with the centuries. Of these tall old sycamores, "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America" states that they were "*thought to have been planted when our forbears renovated the place (1688) some time before our ancestor, Joseph Fell, came to America*" — in 1705.

On Longlands Fell is a spring which has supplied water for many centuries. To the right, as one faces the house, rises Skiddaw, one of the highest mountains in England; from the front door of Longlands to the top of Skiddaw, is just five miles. Longlands Fell was a British training ground for some Allied forces during World War II, and many an interesting tale could be told of activities there.

ULDALE OLD CHURCH



Rear view of Uldale Church and lych gate.

No mention of Longlands would be complete without tribute to Uldale Old Church — the church of St. James — on the left bank of the River Ellen, midway between the villages of Uldale and Ireby. The church is a very old structure of pre-Norman foundation; tradition hints at a church there in Saxon days — perhaps the 9th century. Through the cen-

turies there have been major and minor repairs, a new roof being placed on it in 1914. The chancel arch dates from the year 1300, and the first priest of record was Sir Robert de Depyng, a Norman, in that year. His grave, with a chalice carved on the stone, is still seen in the churchyard. In the summer of 1957, the Bishop of Carlisle consecrated additional acreage for the burial ground of this historic church, said to be one of the most beautiful small churches in England.



INTERIOR OF ULDALE OLD CHURCH—the Church of St. James on the River Ellen. The church is said to date back to Saxon times. The great chancel arch was erected in 1300 A. D. Beneath the chancel floor lies the body of one Rev. Richmond Fell. This picture shows the interior in 1947.

Recently, a gentleman from Keswick restored the two church bells and added a vestibule. In the churchyard lie the bodies of many Fells; beneath the chancel floor lies the body of one Rev. Richmond Fell, probably a great-great-grand-nephew of Joseph Fell.

In this ancient church, on February 8, 1647, Joseph's parents were married — Margaret Cape and John Fell. Another Cape-Fell marriage took place in the 18th century, according to the parish records. The Capes are a very old Lake Country family, devoted to church and education. A present-day representative is Jonathan Cape, the publisher of *London*. In the small autobiography of his life that Joseph Fell wrote in 1744, he mentioned his mother's name as Margaret, but failed to give her family name. A search of the ancient parish records of Uldale Church in 1947 revealed her name as Margaret Cape. Five or six years after the marriage, George Fox came preaching "the inner Light" and won many adherents to the Society of Friends in the Lake Country, and it is probable that Joseph's parents became Quakers about 1653. Later, many of their descendants returned to the Church of England.

PERSONALITIES AND LIFE

What manner of folk were these Fell ancestors? How would their appearance tally with that of their American descendants? How stood they socially? What of their daily living?

The chances are that there would have been a marked resemblance between the Fells of the 17th century and earlier and those of the 20th, despite the later mingling of many family lines. The various racial strains in people of the Lake Country are clearly seen in many American Fells today, who show two distinct types of physiognomy, with a blending of the two in some individuals. The golden or light brown hair, blue or gray eyes, fresh complexion, and facial contour that characterize widely separated branches of the Fells so much that remote cousins could pass for brothers and sisters, pay tribute to

their Viking inheritance. The dark-haired, dark-eyed individuals indicate an Early British strain. Occasionally the strains blend in some member with dark eyes and golden hair, and some Fell families comprise both types.

The people of the Lake Country paid little attention to social distinctions. Norman Penney in "The Household Account Book of Sarah Fell" (of Swarthmoor Hall) notes that —

"Practically all of the householders were equal, whether they were styled gentlemen or yeomen or husbandmen, and the simplicity of speech and manners inculcated by the Friends were already prevalent." (Introduction, page xiii.)

Many miles south of Longlands, Swarthmoor Hall holds honored place in the Lake Country because of its distinguished occupants, Judge Thomas Fell and his wife Margaret, who became the wife of George Fox eleven years after the Judge's death. Both knew persecution in full measure for some years. Kindly, tolerant, and broad-minded, the Judge gave hospitality to "lecturing ministers", then often under ban. Though protecting Quakers, as well as others, Judge Thomas Fell remained a member of the Church of England until his death, and was buried by torchlight beneath the family pew in Ulverston Church. His widow became a tireless worker in the Society of Friends. In the "Genealogy" of 1891, Eliza Fell recorded meeting John Fell of Dane Ghyll Flan How, who told her he belonged to the Fells of Swarthmoor Hall, and believed the Fells of Longlands were a branch of the ancient Fells of Hawkswell, as were those of Swarthmoor Hall. If this John Fell belonged to the Swarthmoor Hall group, he must have been a descendant of a brother of Judge Thomas Fell, since Isabelle Ross, author of "Margaret Fell — Mother of

Quakerism", states that the last male descendant of Judge and Margaret Fell, by the name of Fell, died in 1787. Mrs. Ross is descended from one of the daughters. After years of neglect and decay, Swarthmoor Hall, with its fraction of 100 acres, is once again owned by a descendant of Judge and Margaret Fell, and has been restored to its 17th century beauty, within and without.

Eliza Fell visited a number of Fell families in the north of England in her search for records of the Fells of Longlands, and in quaint Quaker phraseology reported that everywhere she was greeted with the words, "Thou bearest a worthy name."

In their daily living, the Fells of Longlands undoubtedly followed the common path — raising grain and root crops, sheep and poultry, with a few cattle and horses. Mainly, they were sheep-farmers, as were most of the yeoman families of Cumberland. Every year a great sheep fair was held at Uldale, when sheep were bought and sold by the hundreds and the fair ended with a joyous country dance. In the 17th century roads were few and bad, and travel was by pack-horse or coastal vessel. Fruits were limited, but fish were plentiful and some meats were "home-cured". Cloth of various kinds was largely made by local weavers, though occasional weaving was done at home. A woolen mill at Caldbeck turned out cloth known as "Ivinson grey"; it figured in the ballad of John Peel, the famous hunter. Some clothing would be bought in Keswick, or more rarely, in Carlisle.

As to their dress, the earliest Quakers had no distinct costume. Not till 1704 did grey become the vogue for Quaker women, and it was bitterly resisted by Margaret Fell Fox and her daughters, who dressed according to the fashion of the day. They liked color; even their stockings (probably wool) were dyed green

and sky-blue. Payments for ribbons, silks and laces appear in the famous "Account Book" of Sarah Fell. According to that book, there was no skimping on food and drink, the latter mostly wine, with some beer and occasional brandy. Not till a later age did



STANTHWAITE HOUSE—Home of the Rev. Richmond Fell, father and son, and of the Burgess family. The vicars were the descendants of Joseph Fell's brother John, who inherited Longlands. Miss Eliza Fell visited the Burgess family here when gathering data for "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America." Stanthwaite was originally two or three cottages joined together and enlarged to form a typical English country house.

the Quakers sense harm in the liquor traffic, and most of them continued to serve wine at meals. For a funeral repast, Margaret Fell Fox once ordered nine gallons of wine, thirty pounds of cheese, and a quantity of "biskitts"!

Undoubtedly, the living at Longlands would be less lavish. After John Fell's death, when Joseph was but two years old, the old home, in accordance with British law, went to the oldest son, John, named for his

father. Other members of the family found homes not far away. and John repaired and enlarged the ancient house in 1688. After his marriage, perhaps before that, Joseph lived at Chapel House in Ireby, still occupied as a dwelling; it was only a half-mile from Longlands, but across the river.

For many years, Joseph's old home of Longlands was in chancery, because of litigation by various claimants, not all of them bearing the name of Fell. Eventually the house became the property of one Rev. Richmond Fell, living in nearby Stanthwaite House, and passed to his daughter, Mrs. Burgess. In 1926, the Burgess family lost Longlands, Stanthwaite House, and a number of other properties.

THE LONGLANDS COAT-OF-ARMS

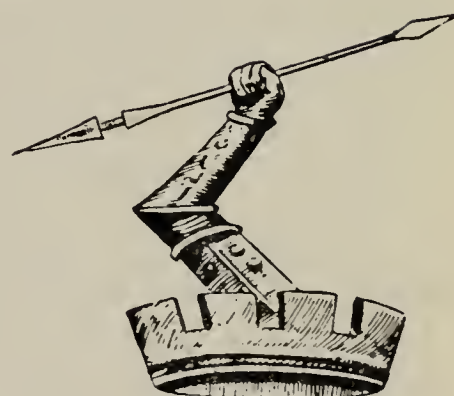
Quaker though he was, Joseph Fell brought with him to Pennsylvania, a copy of the Longlands Fell coat-of-arms. How or when first acquired, we do not know, but it is described in some old Pennsylvania histories. It consists of a shield with two bars charged with three crosses, two in the upper bar and one in the lower, the shield surmounted by a lion rampant supporting a cross with dexter (right) paw. The Genealogy of 1891 also included reproductions of the coats-of-arms of the Fells of Swarthmoor Hall and Dalton Gate. A copy of the Longlands insignia was given Eliza Fell by Mrs. Burgess at Stanthwaite House, but there is no mention of source for the others. Coats-of-arms became prevalent in the 12th century, but more than one English writer has commented on the fact that many Lake Country families did not register theirs with the College of Heralds. Travel conditions and the long distance from London were probable reasons for failure to register. It would



FELS OF DALTON GATE.



FELS OF LONGLANDS



FELS OF SWARTHMOOR HALL.

Coats of Arms of The Fell Families

be interesting to know why Joseph Fell so prized his family's coat-of-arms to venture the Atlantic with it. It would be still more interesting to know its origin; its design hints at a possible Crusading ancestor. Could one have gone with Richard the Lion-hearted?

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN and MARGARET FELL

Though Eliza Fell, in her British researches in 1890, learned that Longlands had been the home of the Fells for more than six hundred years, she did not obtain any names beyond those of Joseph's parents, John and Margaret Fell. She did obtain a partial record of their seven children, as follows:—

JANE, born 1650; (her baptism at Uldale Church is recorded on a preceding page); married **Wm. Adcock (or Alcock)** in 1677 at John Strickett's home in Caldbeck parish. Alcocks of ancient lineage are living in Cumberland to-day, but no Adcocks. The name in the "Genealogy" of 1891 could have been a misprint, as was the village of Ireby, misnamed "Jerby"; no such community exists. This Strickett house is still a farm home today; carved on the great black beams of the fine old kitchen are the initials of John Strickett and his wife, with the date, 1641.) Jane had three children, who were: **John**, an inn-keeper at Cockermouth; **Jane**, whose husband's name was not given, but who had two children and lived at White Haven in 1746; **Sarah**, whose further record is not given. The Alcocks were not Quakers.

ANN, married **John Fearon**; she had one son, **Joseph Fearon**, who with his wife attended a Quaker meeting in 1746, where they met Joseph's grandnephew, Nathan Leighton and his wife. Blind and feeble, **Ann Fell Fearon** was living in Cumberland in 1746.

AGNES and JOHN, born Dec. 22, 1650; **Agnes** probably died unmarried, as there is no further record. Her twin brother **John** married **Ruth Peacock** of Whelpo at John Strickett's house in Caldbeck, April 2, 1682. They lived in ancestral Longlands, which this John Fell renovated and enlarged in 1688, five years before his mother's death. Their six children were all born at Longlands.

MATTHEW, born Jan. 19, 1659; married; had three daughters, who were living in 1746. He died sometime before that year. His family were not Quakers.

MARGARET, born Sept. 19, 1664; no further record, probably died unmarried.

JOSEPH, born Oct. 19, 1668. First married **Bridget Willson** daughter of John and Elizabeth Willson of Granary Farm (also called "Greenriggin") in Caldbeck. Joseph, with Bridget and their two small sons, **Joseph** and **Benjamin**, came to Pennsylvania in 1705. A daughter **Tamar** was born Jan. 26, 1706. Bridget died eleven days after the birth of her daughter **Mary** on April 26, 1708. Three years later Joseph Fell married **Elizabeth Doyle** of Middletown Township, Bucks County, where she was born in 1688. A descendant of the Dungan family, Earls of Limerick in Ireland, also a granddaughter of a famous Baptist minister, the Rev. Thomas Dungan, Elizabeth Doyle Fell was noted both for her beauty and her eloquence as a Quaker minister. She and Bridget Fell's son Benjamin were both accredited ministers of Buckingham Meeting. There were several intermarriages between the descendants of Bridget and Elizabeth Fell, Joseph's first and second wives.

GRANDCHILDREN of JOHN & MARGARET FELL

These were the children of John and Ruth Peacock Fell; they were:—

JOHN, born Feb. 4, 1683, died 1745. Although the "Genealogy" says "probably unmarried", this may have been the John Fell who married Dorothy Dalton, widow, who brought Stanthwaite House back into the Fell holdings; an Anthony Fell, living at Stanthwaite, was buried at Uldale Church in 1643. Dorothy's first husband belonged to the same family as the noted physicist, John Dalton. They were ardent Quakers.

MARY, born July 7, 1684; died before 1746, probably unmarried.

JOSEPH, born 1686, married **Dorothy Gibson**. Their three children were **John**, born Dec. 15, 1718; married **Ruth Slee**, of Mosedale, Cumberland in 1749; **Mary**, born Sept. 1, 1720, was unmarried in 1748; **Joseph**, born Feb. 28, 1723; was unmarried in 1748. These three were the great-grandchildren of John and Margaret Cape Fell, the grandchildren of John and Ruth Peacock Fell. Their

mother, Dorothy Gibson Fell, died at Longlands, Nov. 18, 1764, and was interred at Whelpo, the home of her husband's mother.

DEBORAH, born in May, 1689; married **Nathan Leighton** of Westmorland at Caldbeck; no children recorded. They lived at Canyard Brow, Cockermouth in 1746; they wrote their uncle, Joseph Fell on June 6, 1746.

ANTHONY, born Aug. 8, 1691; died 1746 unmarried.

SARAH, married **JOSEPH STAGASS**; she died before 1746, but in 1748 he was living in Cockermouth, where he followed the thread trade. They had a daughter **Deborah** living in a merchant's home in Settle, Yorkshire, in 1748. This Joseph Stagass, who signed his name "Stagge", wrote Joseph Fell at Buckingham, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 9, 1748. The spelling of names was still in flux in the 18th century.

This completes the record of John and Margaret Fell's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. That there were others is evidenced by the many claimants for the ancient home of Longlands recorded in old deeds, etc. In 1947, through the courtesy of Mrs. Joseph Fawcett, then living in the Cape Cottage, built or re-built in 1694 by a brother or nephew of Margaret Cape Fell, I scanned many of the old deeds. Previous to that, Mrs. Fawcett had sent me the following summary of Longlands:

1713 — Deed of Indenture between John Fell of Longlands and Dorothy Dalton, widow, of Stanthwaite, to whom he paid 64 pounds to quit a payment of 15/6, one day's mowing, 2 days' shearing, and one horse carriage. This John Fell later married Dorothy Dalton.

SEPT. 16, 1763 — Deed of transfer of Longlands from John Fell the elder to John Fell, the younger, only son.

1771 — Mortgage, John Fell and Ruth, his wife, to John Robinson.

MAY 1, 1783 — The Rev. John Fell and another paid 350 pounds to Mrs. Jane Pearson.

1788 — Anthony Robinson, Esq., yeoman of Kirkland, owned Longlands.

1800 — Mortgage, Pearson and Fell to Barnes.

1836 — Longlands is in chancery. Claimants for it — Wm. Robinson and wife Elizabeth, Tinmouth Dixon, John Robinson, Cuthbert Ralph, Henry Crable Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, widow, George Palliser, William Davis, and others.

MAY 5, 1840 — Longlands was sold at Wigton to William Johnson of Stanthwaite for 1030 pounds, exclusive of timber.

1857 — Elizabeth Fell, wife of one Rev. Richmond Fell, had her farm stock at Stanthwaite insured for 100 pounds. She bought back Longlands and joined it to Stanthwaite, but these and nine other properties were lost in 1926 by her granddaughter, Mary Fell Burgess and family.

This ends the record of Joseph Fell's family remaining in England.

CHAPTER II.

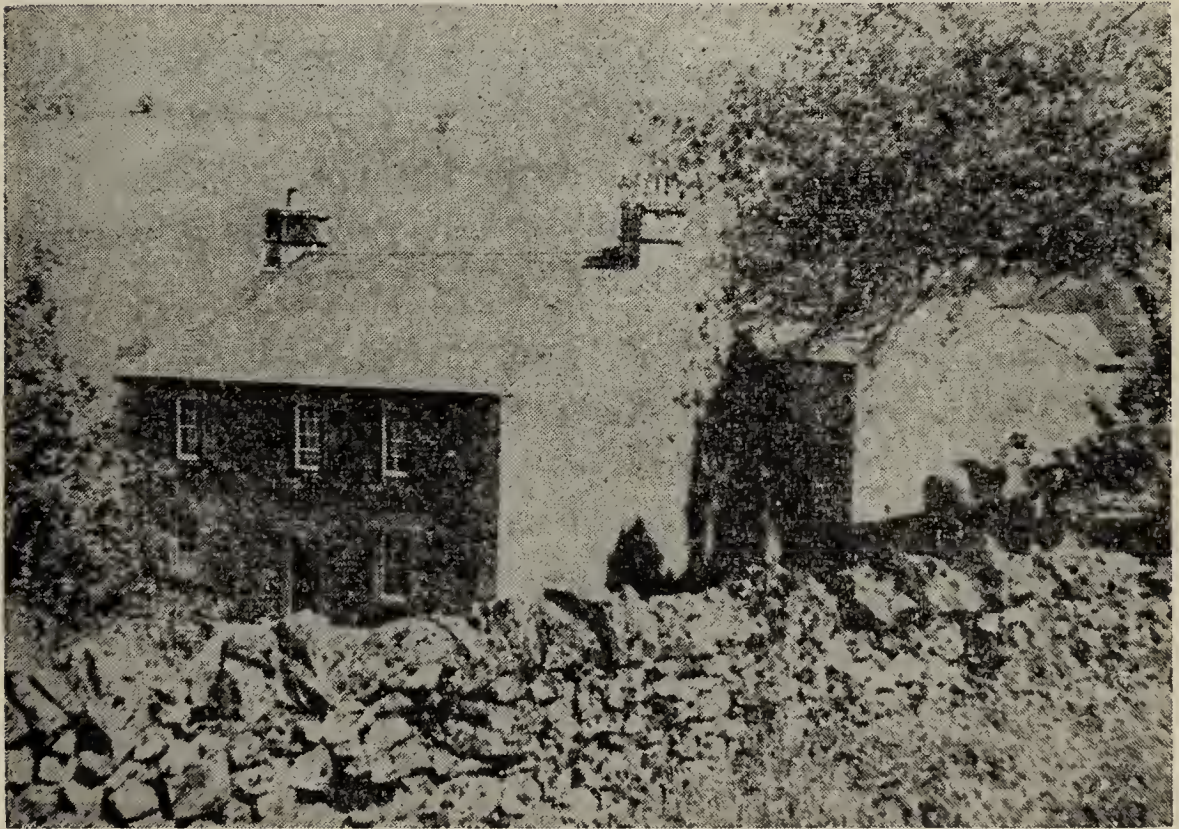
JOSEPH FELL

As noted in Chapter I, Joseph was the youngest of seven children of John and Margaret Cape Fell, born October 19, 1668 at Longlands. When two years old, his father died Dec. 22, 1670; his mother survived until March 5, 1693. In accordance with British inheritance laws, on the father's death, the ancient home of Longlands had passed to Joseph's oldest brother John, who repaired and enlarged the house in 1688; the date over an old doorway is still legible.

When Joseph had finished his village schooling, in a building that is an occupied home today, his mother apprenticed him to one John Bond, a building contractor living at Wheelbarrow Hill, near Carlisle, 17 miles from Longlands. The apprenticeship lasted four years, and after that Joseph followed the carpenter trade while he lived in England.

In the sketch of his life which Joseph Fell wrote on Dec. 6, 1744, he says that when he was in his 30th year he married Bridget Willson, daughter of John and Elizabeth Willson of the Granary Farm, also known as "Greenriggin", in the parish of Caldbeck. Their marriage certificate, copied in the "Genealogy of the Fell Family in America", of 1891, gives the date of the wedding as March 2, 1700, in the Caldbeck Quaker Meeting House. Joseph was an old man when he wrote his brief autobiography, and his memory was probably failing, which would account for the discrepancy of two years. That, too, may have been responsible for failing to note his mother's maiden name — Margaret Cape. In July, 1947, 300 years after her marriage to John Fell, her family name was learned from Uldale parish records.

While they lived in Chapel House, two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, were born to Joseph and Bridget Fell. From 1682 on into the 18th century, many Quakers had left England for America, most of them settling in Pennsylvania. Undoubtedly many friends of Joseph and Bridget were among them, and by 1704 they, too, decided to come to America. In his little biog-



CHAPEL HOUSE—in Ireby, England, which Joseph Fell left for Pennsylvania in 1705. It is still a home today. The white circular area at top of picture is Chapel House Reservoir which supplies water for part of the Lakeland district.

raphy of 1744, Joseph did not list any relative as coming with him and his family to America, but the following document, held in 1891 by Jane Eliza Fell Hagar of Toronto, Ontario, indicates that a sister or sister-in-law came with them:

White Haven, Jan. 13th, 1704.

Received from Joseph Fell ye sum of fifteen Pounds and ten Shillings, being full passage money for himself, his wife and sister and two children to Virginia or Maryland.

Rec'd. per me MATT GALE.

Jane Eliza Fell Hagar was a great-granddaughter of Joseph's grandson, Zenas Fell, who left Bucks County, Pennsylvania for Ontario, Canada in 1790. Zenas became the progenitor of a large group of Joseph's Canadian descendants.

The date on this receipt is either a misprint or else Joseph bought the passage more than a year before sailing, since he arrived in Pennsylvania in 1705. (Errors of date and variations of spelling were quite common in the 18th century. The "sister" referred to may have been Bridget's sister, or, if the date on this receipt is correct, she may have changed her mind before the family sailed.)

Joseph and Bridget Fell brought with them a Certificate of Removal from the Quaker Monthly Meeting at Woodhall in Caldbeck, dated October 20, 1704. Minus the "f"s in the printed copy that stand for the old-style "s", the capital "J"s for "i", the abbreviated words, the mis-spelling and curious use of capital letters that characterize many 18th century documents, the certificate is as follows, retaining only the "ye":—

"Cumberland in)

old England) From our Monthly Meeting held at Woodhall in Caldbeck, ye 20th of 10th month 1704, Pennsylvania or elsewhere, what by Providence ye lot of ye bearer hereof may be cast. Salutation — Grace, mercy and peace from God be multiplied and increased in and amongst you and in ye Church of God everywhere. Know you that our friend Joseph Fell, ye bearer hereof, did appear in our meeting and did lay before us his intention to remove himself, his wife and family into Pennsylvania if the Lord permit and for your satisfaction we do give you this account. They were children of believing parents and educated in the way of the truth. Their lives and conversation have been such as becometh ye truth and furthermore we do certify that they are in full unity with Friends and removes with ye approbation of said Meeting and hath consent of parents and relations and we doubt not but if it please God to bring

them to a safe arrival but (that) you will receive them in ye same love in which they leave us, and we heartily desire that ye Lord may preserve them out of ye hands of unreasonable men and give them their lives for a prey wherever they come.

Signed on ye behalf of ye said Meeting."

George Bewley	John Wilson
William Greeny	George Bewley
Richard Priestman	Joseph Peacock
Thomas Priestman	George Peacock
Cuthbert Greeny	John Towerbey
George Bewley	George Bewley
Thomas Wilson	John Fell

The Bewleys much in evidence at this meeting belonged to a very large yeoman family, living on an ancient estate.

When Joseph and his family sailed in the good ship "Cumberland" for America in 1705, he left behind him two brothers and four sisters, all older than he. A fragmentary record of them is found in the front pages of "The Genealogy of the Fell Family", published in 1891. A trifle more information may be gleaned from letters written Joseph in 1746 and '48 by nephews and niece.

Joseph Fell, after living a year in the township of Makefield (Macclesfield) finally settled at Buckingham, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on a tract of land a few miles west of Buckingham Meeting House and between it and Doylestown. He became a prominent and useful man in the community, and was a valuable member of the Society of Friends, as appears from the frequency with which his name is noted on the records of Buckingham Meeting for thirty years. He was an overseer from 1711 to 1714, when he became an elder. In 1725 he was made a member of the Provincial Council founded by William Penn in 1682.

JOSEPH'S LAND

Because of a number of boundary changes over more than two centuries, it is impossible today to locate the exact spot on which stood Joseph's home. The following extracts from deeds held by Dr. H. H. Fell of Hollen, Ontario in 1891, indicate several changes of land in the late 17th and early 18th centuries:

1st Deed, dated 1691, from Wm. Penn of Horninghurst, England to John Hough of Mackelsfield, Chester County, was for 375 acres "in the Prov. of Pa. towards the Susquehanna River clear of Indian encumbrance — consideration 12 pounds, 4 shillings."

2nd Deed, dated England, 1694, from John Hough to Richard Hough, his brother, covered 3 equal fifths of above land.

3rd Deed, from John Hough to John Walter covered 2 equal fifths of above land.

John Hough appointed Samuel Jennings and Samuel Carpenter to deliver said lands to said parties.

4th Deed, from Margery Hough (widow) and Richard H. (son) of above Richard Hough, contains the following description and an excerpt from the will of the first Richard Hough:—

"Description — beginning at a heap of stone at corner of Proprietary's land in Buckingham To. in the Co. Bucks then by Daniel Jackson's land containing 475 acres 11 perches confirmed into the said Richard Hough the father by Patent under the hands of the Proprietary's commissioners and under Seal of said Province, date Nov. 24, 1702, recorded in Rolls Office, Philadelphia in Patent Book A, Vol. 2, pages 417 418 by virtue of which Patent and other deeds therein writed, he the said R. H. the father being lawfully seized did by his last will and testament dated May 1, 1704, devise:

Ninthly, I will that my land that lies by Daniel Jackson's in Buckingham 475 acres, consideration \$100* to Joseph Fell of Buckingham."

*\$100 is undoubtedly a misprint in the "Genealogy" for 100 pounds (L-100).

Though this will bore the date of 1704, it was not completed until 1706. Joseph Fell came to Buckingham from Makefield about March 1, 1706.

Joseph willed this land to his son Titus and his heirs. Titus Fell, in his will probated Dec. 14, 1772, left it to his son Zenas, who bought other land and sold parts, thus confusing the boundaries of Joseph's tract. In 1790 Zenas Fell and family left Buckingham for Welland County, Ontario, where they added many Canadian descendants to Joseph's line.

When Joseph Fell came to Bucks County there were many Indian settlements, one being on his own land. Many immigrants located in this period in the counties of Bucks, Philadelphia and Chester; as the population grew, roads multiplied. Before 1745 there were only a few wagons, travel being a-foot, by packhorse and sailing vessel, but five years later two-horse wagons were common and travelers were many.

Most immediate descendants of the early settlers intermarried with Joseph's children and grandchildren; among them were the Scarborough, Pearson, Paxson, Kirk, Church, Michener, Watson and Chapman families.

It is probable that Joseph Fell and his family brought with them some possessions from their old home in England. Some years ago a small cupboard, said to have been theirs, went to a collector of antiques in Eastern Pennsylvania. If it were theirs, no doubt Joseph had made it. In possession of one of the Mercer County Fells is a small Bible bearing the London imprint of 1619, handed down through several generations. Joseph may have brought it to America, or it may have become a Fell possession through Hannah Scarborough, the wife of his son Benjamin and the mother of Benjamin's six older children. The Mercer County Fells are the descend-

ants of Joseph's great-grandsons, William and Nathan Fell.

Joseph prospered moderately and, near the end of his life, decided to leave a record of it for his children and grandchildren. His story, which first saw print in the "Genealogy" in 1891, had lain unnoticed in an attic in the home of a descendant for more than fifty years.

JOSEPH'S STORY

"A narrative or an account of my birth and transactions of life from a child to old age. I was born at Longlands, in the parish of Uldale in the County of Cumberland in old England. I was the youngest of seven children, 3 sons and 4 daughters. My father's name was John Fell, my mother's name was Margaret Fell. I was born in the year 1668 on the 19th day of October. My father died when I was about 2 years old, and my mother lived about 20 years a widow. I was put a prentice to one John Bond, a house carpenter and joyner, living at Wheelbarrow Hill, near Carlisle in Cumberland, where I served 4 years, and after that I followed my trade while I stayed in England. When I was in the 30th year of my age, I married Bridget Willson, daughter of John and Elizabeth Willson, living at Granary in the parish of Caldbeck in Cumberland, and we had two sons born in Cumberland, Joseph and Benjamin, and after that we moved to this country. Took shipping at White Haven in Cumberland, Matthias Gale, Captain of the ship. He victualled the ship at Belfast in Ireland. We stayed about a week there and got sail again; and after we left sight of Ireland, in 29 days we came in sight of land near the Capes of Virginia. And our ship was called Cumberland, and they cast anchor in the mouth of Potomeck river, and we went ashore in Virginia and there we got a shallop to Choptand in Maryland, and from thence to Frenchtown and so to Newcastle, and then we took boat to Bristol in the County in 1705. And we lived one year in the townshipp of Makefield, where we had a daughter named Tamar. When she was about seven weeks old we came to Buckingham, where I now dwell; and about two years after we had another daughter born named Mary, and when she was 11 days old her mother died, and I lived a widower near 3 years, and then married Elizabeth Doyle, born in this county. Her

father was an Irish man and her mother born in Rhode Island near (in) New England; and we have lived together about 34 years, and she is about twenty years younger than I. I am now in my 77th year of my age and have 11 children — 4 by my first wife and 7 by my second, and they are all yet living. I have had in mind some years to leave a brief relation of my birth and transactions to my children, being like they are to be left by me in a strange land. As to my living in the world, it has been throu some difficulty at times by losses and crosses, but nothing has happened to me but what is common to mankind, for I have lived in what I call the middle station of life, neither rich nor poor, but by the blessing of God and my own industry I have not been burdensome to anybody, yet hoping I have enough to carry me to the grave. And then I desire my children may follow my example in their way of living in the world, and I hope they may have a good report among men and enjoy peace, which I dayly desire for them as well as myself; and so I shall conclude and earnestly pray that my wife and children may fare well when I am gone.

JOSEPH FELL

Buckingham, the sixth day of the 12th month, 1744.”
(December 6, 1744)

Joseph's grandson, Jesse Fell of Wilkes-Barre, born in 1751, supplemented his grandfather's story with the following memorandum:

“The eleven children of Joseph Fell are all living in my memory except Tamar, and all had families except Mary. The 51 grandchildren I personally knew, and from tradition and my own knowledge I make the following statement, which I believe to be correct as far as it goes.” (Then follow the names of the children and grandchildren with their marriages, omitting all dates, and the names of the grandchildren who died young.)

Done at Wilkes-Barre, November 12th, 1812
Jesse Fell, grandson of Joseph Fell.

Joseph Fell's story on the forebears of his second wife, Elizabeth Doyle, was quite an understatement. Her reputed beauty and her eloquence as a Quaker minister were part of her Irish inheritance from the

Earls of Limerick, as well as her father, Edward Doyle.

The first Queen Elizabeth had raised the Dungan family of Dublin to the peerage as Earls of Limerick. After Lord Walter Dungan was killed in the Battle of the Boyne, the title passed to a younger branch of the family, becoming extinct in 1715. In the 1630s, Frances Latham Dungan, the young widow of William Dungan, a resident of London, married Captain Jeremiah Clarke, and with him and her four Dungan children — two sons and two daughters — came to Newport, R. I., where Captain Clarke became a prominent man in the colony. One of the two Dungan sons, Thomas Dungan, born in London in 1632, entered the school established by Roger Williams, eventually became a Baptist minister, also a member of the Colonial Assembly, and a sergeant in the Newport Militia. Later, this Rev. Thomas Dungan led a colony of Welsh Baptists to Coldspring Township (vicinity of Bristol), Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he founded the first Baptist Church in the State of Pennsylvania. One of his nine children was Rebecca Dungan, who married Edward Doyle. Two of their sons founded Doylestown, Pa., and their daughter Elizabeth became the second wife of Joseph Fell. Her religious lineage was Church of England to Baptist to Quaker.

Who were the children, for whose future and well-being Joseph Fell was anxious that they might “have a good report”? In the order of birth they were —

JOSEPH, born in Cumberland, England, April 29, 1701, died in Buckingham, Pa. on Feb. 22, 1777; he married Mary Kinsey, daughter of Edmund and Sarah Ogborn Kinsey. In 1716, Edmund Kinsey and family removed from New Jersey to Buckingham, with their household possessions in carts and driving their cat-

tle before them. En route, Edmund Kinsey stopped to preach a sermon to Falls Meeting, then rejoined his family. The land he had bought from Wm. Penn was a forest except for one small portion that had been cleared by the Indians, which served as a garden. Three of his children married children of Joseph Fell, and some of their descendants intermarried. Edmund Kinsey became an approved minister of Buckingham Meeting in 1717.

BENJAMIN, born in Cumberland, Sept. 1, 1703, died Sept. 12, 1758. Married (1) Hannah Scarborough, daughter of John Scarborough, and granddaughter of John Scarborough, who came with one of Wm. Penn's groups in 1682, but died in London in 1696. Hannah's father had remained in the colony with friends; he became the progenitor of a very large line, that includes Ex-President Herbert Hoover. Benjamin married (2) Hannah Iredell of Horsham, who added four children to the six of Hannah Scarborough; (3) Sarah Rawlings, of Richland Township, who bore one son, Maurice, who died at the age of 27.

TAMAR, born Jan. 25, 1706 in Makefield Township, Bucks County; married David Kinsey, whose sister Mary was the wife of Tamar's brother Joseph, on Nov. 30, 1734. Tamar died between 1746 and 1750, and her six children also died in early childhood. Hers is the first of Joseph's lines to end early.

MARY, born April 26, 1708, died unmarried after 1751.

JOHN, born May 7, 1712, in Buckingham, died Nov. 20, 1762. In August of 1738 he married Elizabeth Watson, who died March 12, 1812. She attended Quaker Meeting in 1809, probably also later. She was the daughter of Dr. John Watson and Ann Beale of Buckingham, the granddaughter of Dr. Thomas

Watson of High Moor, Cumberland, and Eleanor Pierson of Row Bank, Westmorland, England, who with sons John and Thos. Watson settled in Buckingham in 1701. A large Bible brought from England, bearing the inscription, "Elener Watson, her Book. Anno Dominie 1690", descended to Elizabeth Watson Fell, was willed to her son, John Fell and was passed on to his grandchildren. Ten children.

SARAH, born Aug. 26, 1713 at Buckingham, died October 11, 1797; married in 1735 to Richard Church, who was born in Ireland. They had 9 children.

ISAAC FELL, born June 17, 1715. In 1742 he married Hannah Haines, nee Hough of Salem, N. J. A son and a daughter died unmarried, and the married daughter had no children, thus ending another line of Joseph's.

RACHEL, born Oct. 17, 1716. Married (1) John Kinsey, whose sister Mary was her brother Joseph's wife; (2) married in 1746 to Isaac Kirk of Buckingham. One child, 2nd marriage, Thos. Kirk, but his descendants failed to give informaton for "Genealogy", so that line blank.

TITUS, born May 7, 1772; married October 15, 1747 in Wrightstown Meeting House to Elizabeth Heston of Makefield Township. Five children; resided at "The Fell Homestead", Buckingham Township.

THOMAS, born June 9, 1725 in Buckingham; married Jane Kirk in Wrightstown Meeting House, Feb. 24, 1750. They had six children.

GEORGE FELL, born Sept. 13, 1728; married Sarah Kirk, sister of Thomas Fell's wife in 1751. George Fell was a Coroner of Bucks County during the reign of King George III. Unlike his nephew Benjamin, who became Coroner in 1777, George Fell remained loyal to the Crown. One of two daughters survived.

America's postal system was already functioning in a slow manner when Joseph arrived in 1705, so he was able to communicate with relatives in the old home in England, and two letters he received were reproduced in the "Genealogy". The first one was from his brother John's daughter Deborah and her husband, Nathan Leighton, and indicates they had received letters from Joseph. Minus the incorrect and antiquated spelling, it is as follows:—

"For Joseph Fell at Buckingham in the county of Bucks and the province of Pennsylvania in America.

Canyard Brow, ye 6th day of 6th month, 1746 (June 6, 1746)
Dear Uncle and Aunt, Joseph and Elizabeth Fell, this comes with salutation of dear love to you and your children. I own I have been long of writing to you, but you are often in my remembrance for all of that. It is not forgetfulness that we do not write oftener but for want of an opportunity. But I have been in sorrowful circumstances of late, for I have now parted with my dear brother Anthony Fell, who was more like a father than a brother. However, I have finished my duty faithfully and that is my comfort now when he is gone, for he was very much afflicted with the palsy so that he could not serve himself with his victuals, and other illnesses struck in with it and took him off. But he was very sensible until the last and sweet in his spirit, so I was very sensible of his well-being. And since his death brother Joseph Fell is dead and has left a widow and three children and they are grown men and women, and is very hopeful so far. I think I gave the account of brother John Fell's death before, so now there is none left but myself of thy brother's children. Sister Sarah's daughter, Deborah Stagass, is a very well inclined young woman and is in a place and well beloved in a family where she lives about sixteen miles from us. And if thou think good to write her she is just as like to answer thy letters or thy children's letters as any of the family that is now left; direct to my husband for her. Of Uncle Matthew's children I can give but little account of them, for they did not keep amongst Friends, but there is three daughters yet living for aught I know.

As for Uncle Adcocke's children, they are all gone but three, John and Jane and Sarah. John lives at Cockermouth

and keeps an inn and drinks hard betimes. Jane lives near White Haven and does but poorly; her children is gone from Friends. Now, dear Uncle J, I have been a little gone away into Cumberland where I had the opportunity to see several of my friends, for I visited all the meetings in it but one and that was thy brother Fearon's meeting, but I had opportunity to see John (Fearon) and his son Joseph and his wife and they were all well in health but thy sister Ann, and she has lost her sight and is lame and feeble (she was then in her 80s). Thy brother Wilson's of Greenrig's (Greenriggin — Green Ridge) widow is yet alive and his eldest son is married again, and his son Isaac is married and does very well, and Joseph Priestman is yet alive. Sarah married and died and left a child and called her Mary, and I saw her and she is a fine child. Joseph takes care of her for her father is married again. I saw Joseph Stagass and his wife, Deborah's father and mother-in-law (stepmother), and Joseph Peeall (Peel?) is yet alive, but William Greenup is dead. I have given as particular account as I can about the affairs of relations and Friends. Rowland Wilson remembered his dear love to you; I saw him lately, he is much out of health. Also Aldsorn and Margaret Copeland are well and Christopher Wilson gave me a comfortable account of you. It is what I expect that when our Friends come (to Pennsylvania) they should see as many of thy children as they can with convenience, and I desire thee to take a little notice of this our friend, Thomas Gawthrop, for he is both a near relation and a worthy Friend and a neighbor, so I expect to have a particular account from you by him if he lives to return (from a visit to Pennsylvania). He has left a family of small children. I recommend thee to him for further information concerning us. We are in good health, thru mercy, at present. Hoping these few broken lines may find you in the enjoyment of the same, I must now conclude with endeared love to you and your dear children as I have named, and my husband joins with me.

I subscribe our names, Nathan and Deborah Leighton.

Thou must find out my scribble as well as thou can, for I am in haste; the Friend being in haste, excuse bad writing.

(The Wilsons in this letter were Joseph's brothers-in-law by his first marriage. The "Genealogy" spells the name Wilson with two "ls".)

This letter was received more than two years after Joseph Fell had written his biographical sketch, but shortly before his death one came from the husband of his niece, Sarah Fell Stagass, who had remarried, according to the letter from the Leightons, as well as this one.

For Joseph Fell at Buckingham in the Province of Pennsylvania in America:

The 9th of the second month 1748 (February 9, 1748).

Dear Uncle:

This is to let thee know that I am very well and my wife; and daughter Deborah is grown a very fine young woman and now lives in a fine place, with William Birkbach, merchant, at Settle in Yorkshire. I wrote to thee above a year ago to let thee know of Brother John Fell and Joseph Fell and dear Brother Anthony Fell's deaths, so that there is none now left but sister Deborah of the old stock. But Brother Joseph Fell at Longlands has left a widow and three fine children, John, Joseph and Mary, all unmarried as yet, but they all seem to be very hopeful children. I follow the thread trade, now live at Cockermouth with Jonathan Harris; and my wife and I, through mercy, live very well and comfortable together. Friends living about Caldbeck are all passably well, but Thomas Bubey of Woodhall is lately dead in the last month. Dear Uncle, I am glad to hear that thou is alive, and shall be more so to be once more favored with another letter from thee; this is to acquaint thee that through the mercy of the Great Giver and Disposer of all things we have everything for the support of nature very reasonable. Our maize, wheat good for about two shillings a bushel, barley for about 5, — good oats for half a crown and oatmeal for 5 shillings a bushel; good beef for about 3 half-pence per pound, mutton and pork and good palatable cheese for 2 pence per pound. As it is our market-day, I pray excuse haste for a little more, but I and my wife's very dear love to thee and family, and to Abram Scott and William Askew, if alive; so I remain thy

Ever Loving Nephew

Joseph Stagge

(The spelling of names was still unsettled in the 18th century, and Joseph seems to have preferred a different spelling than the old one — Stagass — for his.)

Full of years and community honors, Joseph Fell died April 9, 1748 and was buried at Buckingham Meeting-House. His grave is probably one of the sunken ones that have carried their ancient stones down with them.

Joseph's standing in Pennsylvania's colonial affairs have given some of his descendants the privilege of belonging to the exclusive Colonial Dames. According to the 1927 Official Register of that organization, the following women became members of the Colonial Dames, the earliest membership listed in 1892, the latest 1925. Probably others are listed in a later Register, not now available for study; a number of these were residents of New England, and do not appear in the "Genealogy" of 1891. Some entered with full claim on Joseph Fell, others with Supplementary Claim.

MEMBERS OF COLONIAL DAMES ENTERED ON JOSEPH FELL

Mrs. George Corson	Mrs. Frank Penrose Croft
Miss Josephine Hilliard	Mrs. Wm. Stinson Hilliard
Mrs. Herbert Howe	Miss Frances Kinsey
Mrs. George B. Miller	Miss Mary M. Kinsey
Mrs. John C. Phelps	Mrs. Augustus Thomas
Mrs. George J. Watson	Mrs. James Rigbie Turner
Mrs. Edmund Webster	

THE WILL OF JOSEPH FELL

Of interest to many of Joseph Fell's descendants was his will recorded on page 30 of the "Genealogy". The apparent "f"s indicate the 18th-century form of "s". It would be interesting to know why he wrote the name "Fell" with two small letters instead of a capital "F", but that style seems to have been quite common in the 18th century; a British novelist had one

of her characters claim it as a mark of distinction. Using a normal “s”, but the double “f” as in the original, Joseph’s will is as follows:

BE IT REMEMBERED That I Joseph ffell of the township of Buckingham & County of Bucks & Province of Pennsylvania Yeoman being of perfect memory & of sound mind (Blessed be God for the same) Calleing to mind the uncertainty of Time knowing that it is appointed for man once to Dye Do therefore make and ordain this my last Will & Testament in menner following ffirst I Commit my Soul to God that Gave it mee and my body to the Earth to be buried according to the Discretion of my Executrix hereafter named; and as to my temporall Estate I give and Dispose of it as followeth Imprimis my will is that all my Just Debts and funeral Expenses be first fully paid and Discharged with the Legacys herein after given and bequeathd Item I Give and bequeath to my well beloved Wife Elizabeth ffell one half of my plantation During her Widowhood with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging & when Divided she to have the last end of the Dwelling House with the cellar under it and half of the outhouses & Barns. It, I give and bequeath to my son Titus ffell the other Half of my Plantation During his mother’s Widdowhood and when his Mother Dyes or marrys the whole Plantation with all its appertinance whatsoever thereunto belonging to him his Heirs & assigns for Ever he paying his younger brothers these sums (viz) to Thomas ffell the sum of fforty Pounds to be paid in one year after my Decease & to George ffell the sum of Thirty Pounds to be paid within one year after my Decease I give to my Wife Elizabeth ffell one clock & one Warming Pann and Bed Pann In Case of her marrying again.

Item I give & bequeath unto my four sons Joseph ffell, Benjamin ffell, John ffell, Isaac ffell the sum of Ten Shillings each of them & to my daughters Tamar Kinsey, Sarah Church & Rachel Kirk the sum of five pounds each of them & to my daughter Mary ffell the sum of twenty pounds all these Last Legacys to be paid by my Executrix within one year after my Decease. I give my son Joseph my share of Sewel’s History, to my son Titus my Sacred History, to Thomas, Barclay’s Apology, and to my son George my great Bible after his mother’s Death. I having some Land on

Lease my will is that my son Thomas shall have the Benefit and advantage of it after my Decease. Lastly I do hereby nominate appoint constitute & ordain my well beloved wife Elizabeth ffell my full and sole Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament of all my Goods & Chattles moveable and immoveable and do hereby Revoke Disanul & make void all other Wills & Testaments by me heretofore made either by Word or writing & Declare this to be my last Will and Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my Hand and Seal this fifth day of the Twelfth month Anno Dom 1746.

JOSEPH FELL (SEAL)

Signed Sealed Published & Declared to be his last Will & Testament in the Presence of John Bradfield Juner (Jr.) John Vandueren Jacob Holcomb.

Proven 4-28-1748

1475259

JOSEPH FELL'S DESCENDANTS

Though many of Joseph Fell's lines became extinct through failure to marry or have children, the descendants run into thousands today. Up to 1890, the "Genealogy" records 6,946 descendants. It also noted that with the exception of one very limited branch, all the descendants were not found. There are a number of incomplete lines. The present historian has unearthed two of these, one in Uniontown, Pa., the other in New Orleans. Because of intermarriages from the third generation down, the total number in the statistical table below is greater than the number recorded in the body of the History. Three or four generations since would add many to the total. This table is taken from the "Genealogy" of 1891.

1ST GENERATION — JOSEPH FELL, our common ancestor in America, came to Pennsylvania in 1705 and settled in Bucks County where he died on April 9, 1748. Joseph was the youngest son of John and Margaret Fell of Longlands. Joseph's brother John rebuilt ancient Longlands in 1688, putting the date over a doorway. It is still legible.

2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Total
Joseph	7	17	54	151	198	64	1	492
Benjamin*	11	48	162	610	1125	991	117	3064
Tamar	6	None found						6
Mary	Died Unmarried.							
John	10	76	214	537	671	75	0	1583
Sarah	9	22	72	179	212	49	0	543
Isaac	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Rachel	1	4	6	16	8	0	0	35
Titus	5	24	60	126	151	42	0	408
Thomas	6	31	128	251	316	43	0	775
George	2	7	11	14	3	0	0	37
								6946

*Uniontown and New Orleans lines would increase total.

CHAPTER III.

BUCKINGHAM MEETING-HOUSE

For generations, until they became Quakers following George Fox's visit to the Lake Country about 1653, the Fells of Longlands had been associated with the Church of St. James in Uldale parish, now known as Uldale Old Church. Within its walls they were christened, confirmed, married, and to it they were carried for burial rites. In the 18th century, most of the Longlands descendants returned to the Church of England. Joseph in the New World, however, maintained his membership in the Society of Friends and became a "pillar" in Buckingham Meeting-House in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The earliest Quaker settlers in Pennsylvania had quickly set up, at the little settlement known as "the Falls", a Quarterly and Monthly Meeting. To it, over the crude woodland road through the unending forest that covered Buckingham Valley and its surrounding ridges and hills, went the first settlers of Buckingham for twenty years, — an arduous journey of eighteen miles or more. Who were these first settlers of Buckingham? The recorded Minutes of the Falls Quarterly Meeting lists them as — Amor Preston, Thomas Bye, James Streator, Joseph Fell, Thomas Canby, Edmund Kinsey, Thomas Watson, Robert Smith, Jacob Holcombe, Richard Lundy, and John Scarborough. More than one of these became linked by marriage with Joseph Fell and his descendants.

In 1701, the Falls Quarterly Meeting registered the following minute:

"Application being made by the new settlers above Wrightstown to have a meeting for worship weekly among themselves and others that might think fit to visit them, they are at present left to their liberty."

In June of the next year, the request of John Bye and John Scarborough that a First-day (Sunday) Meeting be settled at the home of Thomas Bye, was granted. The Bye house of those days was said to have been the east end of what is still called the Bye House. Other dwellings were also used for Sunday and week-day meetings. In 1705, James Streater conveyed to Falls Meeting, for the use of Buckingham Friends, a tract of ten acres for a meeting-house and burial ground, also a right-of-way for five roads to it. There, Stephen Wilson of the Falls, in 1705, raised the logs of the first Buckingham Meeting-House. It was not



Buckingham Meeting House

1768 — 1959

completed until 1708, nor final payments made until 1710. It was hard to do more than make a bare living in Buckingham in those days, and even the glass for the little windows was presented by two kind Friends of the Falls, Joseph Kirkbridge and William Biles. To this log meeting-house came Joseph and Bridget Fell in 1706, after a year's stay in Makefield Town-

ship. Joseph became an overseer in 1711, an elder in 1714. The Quakers at Buckingham continued to journey to the Falls for their Monthly Meeting until 1720, when they petitioned for a Monthly Meeting of their own.

In 1721 the log meeting-house was enlarged, but in March, 1725, a minute of the Falls Meeting records that "Joseph Fell and Jacob Holcombe are desired to make up accounts with Thomas Canby concerning the building of the stone end of the Buckingham Meeting-House. Apparently some of the younger members felt that meeting-house inadequate just four years later, for in 1729 they told their Monthly Meeting of the need for a new meeting-house and appointed Joseph Fell, Jacob Holcombe and Thomas Canby to solicit subscriptions to cover the purchase of an additional three and a half acres from Edmund Kinsey, and to erect a building. This building burned, during a meeting, on April 8, 1768. The present meeting-house was built during the winter of 1768-69 at a cost of 736 pounds, 14 shillings, 1½ pence — much larger sum then than now.

Buckingham Meeting-House is a fine, old-fashioned edifice, two stories high, of grit stone narrow pointed, with concave plaster cornices at the eaves and also at both ends; hoods extend over the doorways. The interior is divided in both stories by a panel partition made to slide, forming two rooms when desired. During the Revolution, half of the bulding served as a hospital for wounded soldiers. This movable partition now separates the section used for First-day School (Sunday School) from that used for worship. A piano is now used in the Sunday School; early Quaker objections to music, dancing, card-playing, and bright colors have disappeared with the passing years. Those not Quakers are now addressed in current us-

age, the "thee" and "thou" being reserved for members of the Meeting.

The interior is finished in white cedar that still retains its luster after nearly 200 years, though without paint or varnish. Wooden benches, much like old-time settles, furnish pews for the worshipers. Some have no middle slat across the back, but all have brown denim cushions. The religious symbolism that enriches today's churches is lacking, save that on an inside shutter barring an unused window or door, the nails are studded in the form of a cross — perhaps unintentionally.

During the Revolution, Buckingham Meeting-House was once under fire, as attested by a bullet-hole in one end of the balcony, also the fact that a bullet of the Revolution was found under the floors when electric lights were installed during the 1930s. While used as a hospital, several Colonial soldiers died in it and were interred in the churchyard (still so large that after 200 years it contained 200 lots for sale). On Sundays, some of the soldiers would put the building in order and attend the Quaker services. Proof that human nature does not change with the passing of centuries is seen in the balcony, where Quaker youth carved initials and dates in the long silences of Quaker meetings!

In 1751, sun-dials were placed on the grounds of Buckingham Meeting-House; the two old horse blocks at each end were erected in 1768. One can envision Quaker wives and daughters "riding pillion" behind husbands and fathers! The burial-ground at the rear of the building is full of old and sunken graves, many of which carried their ancient small headstones down with them. Here rest many of Joseph Fell's descendants, and his own grave is undoubtedly one of the sunken ones. Today, the burial-ground is open to all and

there are many modern graves of non-Quakers.

Joseph Fell was an overseer of Buckingham Meeting from 1711 to 1714, when he became an elder and remained such until his death on April 9, 1748. His second wife, Elizabeth Doyle Fell, and his son Benjamin (born in Cumberland, England), were two of nine accredited ministers — both men and women — of Buckingham Meeting, the son serving for fifteen years until his death in 1760. This Benjamin's son Benjamin, who became a prominent man in Bucks County, broke with the Quaker elders over some card-playing and some Colonial activities that preceded and characterized the Revolution, thus losing his "birthright" as a member of the Society of Friends. He did not lose his inherent "religion"; after his removal to Westmoreland County in 1782, Benjamin Fell the second became one of the two founders of Fells Methodist Church, once heart of the famous Redstone Circuit.

Not only Joseph Fell, his wife and son, but many of their descendants figure in the records of Buckingham Meeting, and the various Buckingham Schools organized and sustained by the Meeting until taken over by Pennsylvania's public school system. One school remained as a private one, under the care of the Meeting.

If, to us, the frequent and long silences of Quaker meetings seem detrimental to congregational worship, we must remember that those who participated in them at Buckingham were neither cold-hearted nor slow of mind, as shown in the records of the Meeting from its earliest days. In 1696, before there was a Buckingham Meeting, the Society of Friends had condemned slavery in no uncertain terms. When in 1759, a member of Buckingham purchased some slaves, he was told to educate and Christianize them, then set them free; failure to do so would cut him off from the Meeting. Later, many members were active in the "Underground

Railroad" and helped many slaves escape. From the earliest days, friendship with the Indians and care for their welfare were of prime importance; the sufferings of Quakers in New England, in old England and in Ireland evoked not merely sympathy, but financial help. The Monthly Meeting at Buckingham, from time to time, established committees to care for the poor, to assist those whose property had been burned, to give advice in matters of business, in collecting debts, in the care of orphans, the raising of money for printing books, forbidding the publishing of other books, the building of schools, and the general welfare of the community. Foremost always was opposition to war, and excessive drinking of liquors; in the 19th century this latter became a total abstinence movement.

On Thursday, August 16, 1923, Buckingham Meeting observed its 200th Anniversary (which had actually fallen three years before), with historical addresses and a pageant, witnessed by some 3,000 visitors from ten States. Not all were Quakers, but most were descendants of pioneer Quaker families. The many pageant performers depicted Quakerism from the days of George Fox, William Penn, and the Indian, Taminent, down to the work of the Friends Service Committee of World War I.

The scenes were realistic and beautiful, including an old-time Quaker wedding, the costumes were authentic and very old in most cases. Eleanor D. Fell, one of Joseph's descendants, wore the mitts her Great-grandmother Hallowell had worn 125 years before. The "Reconstruction" scene in Europe was coached by two young women who had been in reconstruction work in Europe.

The Address of Welcome was given by Alice Atkinson Watson, some of whose forebears are registered

in "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America". The Response was by Frederic L. Paxson, Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin. He was a grandson of Joshua Fell, for many years the Clerk of Buckingham Meeting, and a descendant in the 8th generation of Joseph Fell. Men and women of high standing in American life, and members of the Friends' Service Committee brought inspiring messages, as did the pageant itself. The Anniversary of Buckingham Meeting was long to be remembered by those present.

CHAPTER IV.

BENJAMIN FELL

BENJAMIN FELL, a grandson of Joseph Fell, who came from Cumberland, England, to Pennsylvania in 1705, was born in Plumstead Township, Bucks County, on April 11, 1739. He was a son of the first Benjamin (born in England) and Hannah Scarborough, whose grandfather John Scarborough, had come to Pennsylvania in 1682 with one of William Penn's groups.

No record is available for the first 21 years of Benjamin Fell's life but he seems to have learned the leather trade, along with farming. On October 1, 1760 he married Rebecca Casner (name later spelled Castner). Eleven days after their marriage and just six months after his 21st birthday, Benjamin bought a 41-acre tract of land seven miles north of Buckingham at the junction of historic Durham Road and what is now State Highway 413. Eighteen months later he added an adjoining 14 acres; other purchases in 1767, 1768 and 1778 brought Benjamin's holdings to 175 acres and included a large tanyard. For twenty-two years Benjamin and Rebecca remained on this farm where all their ten children were born. Though the "Genealogy" of 1891 listed Benjamin as a "leather manufacturer", early records in Bucks County list him as a "tanner" or "tanner and shoemaker"; he probably made occasional saddles and other articles.

For this and other corrections in the record of Benjamin Fell we are greatly indebted to his great-great-grandson, the late William Preston Beazell, whose untimely death cut short his researches on the Fells. A former news man, once one of the editors of the New York World, holder of high scholastic degree, Preston Beazell in the 1940s retired to an 18th cen-

tury farmhouse at Tinicum, Bucks County. This he named "Greenriggin", after the ancient home in Cumberland of Joseph Fell's first wife, Bridget Wilson. Questioning certain family traditions and statements in the "Genealogy", Preston Beazell joined the Bucks County Historical Society and immediately plunged into research on the Fells of Eastern Pennsylvania, — in particular, Benjamin, his great-great-grandfather. He found Benjamin to need no aura; his character was outstanding. He was a man of whom his many descendants to this day may well be proud.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Various items on Benjamin Fell's Colonial record are found in the Pennsylvania Archives. He was a member of the Committee of Safety for Bucks County, which began in 1774, and served on various subcommittees of it from time to time. It was succeeded by the Committee of Observation, a forerunner of "Civil Defense". Benjamin became a member of the "Associators and Militia" of Plumstead Township. The Pennsylvania Archives, Series 2, Volume 14, page 157, lists the following record:—

"Benjamin Fell served under Capt. Wm. McCalla in the Associators and Militia of Plumstead Township, Bucks County, Pa., his name appearing in the list of August 21, 1775."

How came this scion of staunch Quakers to mingle with Colonial patriots? Benjamin had fallen in with some customs of the day. Buckingham Meeting, of which his father had been an accredited minister from 1745 to his death in 1760, twice reprimanded him for card-playing; a third reprimand declared him no longer a "birthright" member. His known Colonial sympathies and later gift of leather to Washington's suffering forces completed the rupture with Quakerism. Perhaps the independent minds of his Lake Coun-

try ancestors played a sub-conscious part in Benjamin's attitude. Ceasing to be a Quaker had no ill effect on his character; it merely pointed the fact that true goodness is not dependent on a church label.

The Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council, shown in the Colonial Records of Pennsylvania, Volume II, page 179, record the election of Benjamin Fell and Robert Ramsay as Coroners of Bucks County on March 12, 1777. This was the first election held under the new Constitution of 1776. On June 9, 1777, Benjamin Fell appeared before the Council, was qualified according to the Constitution, and ordered to be commissioned accordingly. On November 11, 1777, he was appointed Coroner of Bucks County.

The Colonial Records, Volume 12, page 126, notes Benjamin Fell's election to the General Assembly as one of the Representatives from Bucks County. On page 509 of this 12th Volume is recorded Benjamin's election for a second term. A document cherished for 180 years by some of his descendants was Benjamin's Summons to a special session of the General Assembly on May 24th, 1781. It reads as follows:

Philadelphia, May 2, 1781.

Sir,

The present state of public affairs, requiring the Meeting of the Assembly before the Time of Adjournment; the Council in Pursuance of the Powers vested in them, have appointed Thursday, the 24th Instant, at the State House in Philadelphia for that purpose; at which Time and Place you are requested to attend.

By order of the Council

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To Benjamin Fell, Esq.
one of the Representatives in
General Assembly,
for the County of Bucks.

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

Not content with mere membership in a Revolutionary organization, Benjamin Fell proved the sincerity of his devotion to the nation struggling for birth by turning over his premises and leather supplies to Washington's forces during the terrible winter at Valley Forge. His daughter, Rebecca Fell Beazell, whose ninety years ended in 1853, remembered the home in Bucks County filled "from attic to cellar" with Colonial soldiers making and mending shoes for their barefoot comrades. As Benjamin's home was seven miles from Buckingham and the Colonial lines came only to Newtown, 22 miles distant, the inference is that though friendship for Washington prompted the gift, the actual recipients were General John Sullivan's men passing through Plumstead in their flight from the British at Basking Ridge, N. J. They were as desperately in need of shoes as the comrades they were joining at Valley Forge.

This act and others prompted the British to set a price of \$10,000 on the heads of Benjamin and his son John. This may have been part of a blanket award offered for members of the Committee of Observation. Benjamin and John kept their heads and took refuge for a short time within Washington's lines. Research may determine whether the money offered was standard British currency or the provincial currency used by the Colonies. Research may also determine whether the happenings about Benjamin's home concerned the "home front" or the "military front".

WESTWARD

Perhaps it was his contacts in the Pennsylvania Assembly that turned Benjamin Fell's thoughts westward to the "new" county of Westmoreland, carved out of huge Bedford County. To care for his Bucks County interests, he gave his brother John a Power

of Attorney on Oct. 28, 1782, which was notarized Nov. 2, 1782, and recorded in Bucks County on January 28, 1783. He was then living in Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County.

Apparently there was an unusually close bond between John, the oldest, and Benjamin, the youngest, of the six children of the first Benjamin and Hannah Scarborough Fell. Though John never crossed the Alleghenies, some of his children did and were the progenitors of the Mercer County Fells, the Uniontown Fells, and two Ohio groups.

The Power of Attorney that Benjamin gave his brother John is as follows, taken from the legal records of Bucks County:—

POWER OF ATTORNEY
made by
BENJAMIN FELL to JOHN FELL

October 28, 1782.

**Notarized November 2, 1782, and recorded in Bucks County,
January 28, 1783.**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, Benjamin Fell, of Rostraver Township, County of Westmoreland and State of Pennsylvania, Tanner, (for good causes and considerations me thereunto moving) have made, ordained and constituted and appointed, and by these Presents do make, constitute and appoint my trusty Friend and Brother John Fell in the Township of Buckingham, County of Bucks and State aforesaid, Yeoman, my true and lawfull Attorney for me in my Name, and to my use to ask, demand, recover or receive of and from every Person indebted to me to Book Bill or Bond, Sale Bill, etc., to sell my Fisherys at Aave Bank if it will sell, otherwise to have the Care of them — giving and by these Presents granting to my said Attorney my sole and full Power and Authority to take, pursue, and follow such legal Course, for the recovering, receiving and obtaining the same, as I myself might or could do, were I personally present; and upon receipt of the same Acquittances and other Discharges for me, and in my name to make, sign, seal and deliver; as also one or more Attorney or Attorneys under

him to substitute or appoint and again at his Pleasure to revoke and further to do, perform or finish for me and in my Name all and singular Thing or Things which shall or may be necessary touching and concerning the Premises as fully, thoroughly and entirely as the said Benjamin Fell in my own Person ought or could do in and about the same, Ratifying, allowing or confirming whatsoever my said Attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Execution of the Premises, by virtue of these Presents.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this twenty-eighth day of Octobter One Thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

BENJAMIN FELL (Seal)

Signed sealed and
delivered in the
presence of

JOHN SEES

MAHLON MICHENER

Notarized by

THOMAS DYER Justice

THE WESTMORELAND HOME

The close of the Revolution saw thousands of people leaving the Atlantic seaboard for lands beyond the mountains, with other thousands following from lands beyond the seas. Even before the Revolution, a few had settled in Westmoreland County; many were squatters or traders who followed Braddock's expedition in 1755. More followed Forbes' Army in 1758. A few settlers' permits were issued between 1755 and 1769; the first settlement by Pennsylvania Authority was made in 1769 following the Stanwix Purchase from the Indians.

Probably early in 1782, Benjamin Fell and his family began the long, hard journey over the Alleghenies with their possessions and livestock; many nights were spent about their campfires built to ward off savage beasts. Accompanying them were others from Bucks County, including some of Rebecca's family, the Castners, and two of Benjamin's nephews,

William and Nathan Fell — sons of his brother John. These two men and their families became Mercer County pioneers while the land was still an unbroken wilderness, William leaving Westmoreland County in 1798, Nathan following in 1800. They founded the Mercer County Fells, a very large group noted in a later chapter.

When Benjamin and his company reached Westmoreland County, they found its wilderness broken by numerous roads, with new ones projected every year. Goods were shipped from Philadelphia and Baltimore by pack-horses and strong wagons known as “packers”; after 1786 there were mail hacks. Travel was slow, however, a month being consumed on the trip from Hagerstown, Md. to Brownsville, Pa., and four horses were needed to pull the loads over the mountains. Letters were carried by express-riders or casual travelers. In 1786, New York authorities ordered James Brison to establish a mail route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, and another from Winchester, Va., to Bedford, Pa. The country was filling up rapidly, the forest beating a retreat.

Whether Benjamin Fell had seen his land in Westmoreland County before purchase, the record does not say, nor by whom the first negotiations were made, but by deed dated March 23, 1782, he received from Leonard Echstine (who had held the land warrant some years), 382¼ acres. As the law required the clearing of 120 acres before the land patent was given, Benjamin did not receive his patent until March 16, 1786. That accounts for the erroneous statement in the “Genealogy” that Benjamin came to Westmoreland County in 1786; he and his family had then been living in their new home four years.

Echstine had succeeded the first owner of the land, Adam Wickerham, who received a warrant for 150

acres in "the Forks Country" — then a part of huge Bedford County — on March 18, 1772, three years before the Revolution. Echstine more than doubled his holdings by warrant No. 7 in Westmoreland County, July 15, 1773. In the months between these dates Westmoreland County had been carved out of Bedford. A century after Benjamin Fell took possession of this land, some Fell and Wickerham descendants intermarried, but by that time the old home was the property of some Fell-Beazell descendants who retained ownership until its sale to Bert Larson a few years ago.

What of this old home? The original log house was probably built by Echstine. In a transcript of Rostraver Township property in the Pennsylvania Archives is the following record dated 1783:—

"Benjamin Fell, 380 acres; three horses, eight cattle, nine sheep, ten inhabitants."

The log house had a fire-place so large it nearly filled one side of a large room. At times Benjamin's home was a gathering place for his Rostraver neighbors, especially after the arrival of the old Pittsburgh Gazette with its news of the day. Broad-minded, public-spirited, accustomed to contact with the Philadelphia of that day, on arrival in Westmoreland County, Benjamin retained his interest in State and National affairs and became one of the early subscribers to Pittsburgh's first newspaper when it was founded in 1786.

What of the community — Rostraver? Many Scotch-Irish had come to Westmoreland County and they gave the township that was their new home the name of the village they had known and loved in the North of Ireland — Rostrevor. Usage soon changed the "e" to "a".

Benjamin prospered so that he was soon able to pay off two mortgages on his Bucks County property, which he had sold to Capt. Wm. McCalla, owner of an inn just over the line in Montgomery County. That his credit was always good is shown by the fact that one of these ran from August 1, 1769 until June 4, 1783, and the other from April 15, 1772 to June 22, 1783.

Benjamin Fell's home came to know some distinguished guests and played a part with another pioneer, Matthew Beazell, in the founding of Fells Church in 1785. Perhaps the log house heard the voice of Robert Wooster, a consecrated Methodist layman from Uniontown, who traveled through the Redstone country proclaiming the Gospel in homes, barns, or by the wayside. A very definite fruit of his labors was the famous Redstone Circuit that once covered much of Western Pennsylvania. Originally part of the early Baltimore Conference, it became a focal point of the Pittsburgh Conference, and for many years Fells Church was the heart of Redstone Circuit.

Bishop Francis Asbury, the "Prophet of the Long Road", in his famous "Journal" mentions several visits to Fells Church and Benjamin's home. He wrote,

"Saturday, August 24, 1803:— At the Forks meeting-house I preached on 1st Thess. 3:1. Whilst we were at dinner at Benjamin Fell's, William Page came in with the agreeable intelligence of a revival at Connellsville."

"Sabbath, August 16, 1807:—I ordained on the campground (which was not far from Fells Church), Dobbins, Fell, and Wakefield to the office of deacons." (This was Benjamin's youngest son Peter Fell, who was a local preacher for many years; he was ordained an elder by Bishop Soule in 1830.)

"Sabbath, August 19, 1810:— . . . On Thursday (August 16th) I dined with Benjamin Fell and family; the old pair, about seventy, are patiently waiting for 'the consolation of Israel'."

Other early bishops who were guests in Benjamin's home on their visits to the Redstone Circuit and Fells Church were Bishops Whatcoat, Roberts, McKendree, Morris and Bascom. One of Benjamin's grandsons, Henry Bascom Beazell, was named for the latter.

Not only early bishops and distinguished preachers knew the hospitality of Benjamin Fell's home, but during the "Whiskey Insurrection" of 1794, "Light Horse" Harry Lee of Revolutionary fame, and his staff were quartered there for a short time. President George Washington had sent General Lee and a small body of soldiers to quell the rebellion of those who refused to pay the tax on whiskey. The counsel of cooler heads prevailed and the soldiers were not needed.

HOME RENOVATIONS

The large cabin that apparently went with Benjamin's purchase of Echstine's land served the family for a year or two as it was, but when a "Quarterly Meeting" was announced for Benjamin's home some weeks after a Methodist preaching service in the neighborhood, the sturdy pioneer said, "We must have more room." Into the woods went sons and neighbors and a large addition was quickly added to the log cabin. This 18th century addition seems to have been the end of the house nearest the driveway, for in the 20th century restoration by Bert Larson, the timbers of that portion appeared to be newer than those in the rest of the structure. Sometime in its history, Benjamin's Beazell descendants had given the house a sheathing of weather-boarding.

Occupied continuously from 1782 — in later years as a tenant house — Benjamin Fell's old home began to show the ravages of time. It had long been in need of paint, some of the joints had decayed, leaving sagging, crooked floors; the porch across the front was

rickety; in heavy storms, water from the slope ran into the house; the barn and other buildings had deteriorated, and the ancient stone spring-house lay in ruins. Some of Benjamin's great-great-grandchildren grieved that the old homestead seemed to have fallen on evil days. A kind Providence decreed that a house that had seen so much good should have a new lease on life, and with Mr. Larson's purchase of it in 1946, the old home was transformed. Transformed, but not spoiled, for all that was good in the 18th century house was retained to grace the restoration. Batten doors with their latches still closed the bedrooms; a few other doors remained, and the stairway of 1782, with hand-turned rail and spindles is still the stairway of today. Low ceilings add coziness to the rooms and roof lines remain unchanged; the ruined stone spring-house lives a-new in a graceful entrance and large chimney. A cement floor, extending to the stone entrance marks one end of the old porch, the other end now forming a den or office, two steps up from the sunken-floored living room that replaces the former kitchen and another room. The ancient walls are sheathed with brick.

BENJAMIN'S CHILDREN

All of Benjamin Fell's ten children were born in the home in Bucks County; nine crossed the Alleghenies, but the record on the three youngest, ("died unmarried, buried at Fells Church") hints the possibility of an epidemic, for there are families buried at Fells, whose gravestones tell a tragic story of deaths within a few days for the children. The graves of Phoebe, born 1775; Jesse, born 1777, and Jane, born 1779, cannot be located today by any marker. If, as emphatically stated by Sarah Hayden Fell, Benjamin and Rebecca were buried beneath the church erected in 1835, because no marker had been placed, the prob-

ability is that three younger children lie beside them.

John, the oldest of the family, had shared his father's experiences in the Revolution, was 21 years old when the family came to Westmoreland County. He absorbed the Methodism sweeping the Redstone country, and, for a year at least, was the third preacher on Redstone Circuit. Marriage and family made it desirable for him to "locate", which meant serving as a "local preacher". In that capacity, he served the church in Connellsville a number of years before his removal to Zanesville.

The record in the "Genealogy" leaves a blank line for the name of John Fell's first wife, but the Beazell records show that her name was Christina Beazell. Later John married Elizabeth Meason, daughter of Col. Isaac Meason, Fayette County pioneer iron-master. The record is rather incomplete as to John's children: Benjamin and John married the Johnston sisters, Margery and Ann, daughters of Israel Johnston of Fayette County. In 1819 both families removed to Zanesville, where the men followed the iron-molders' trade. Benjamin had a very large family, John had four children, but failure to respond to queries when the "Genealogy" was being compiled, leaves the record much lacking.

The "Genealogy" records Benjamin Fell's son John as finally removing to Centreville, Montgomery County, Ohio, and dying in Covington, Ohio, at an advanced age. A few years ago, efforts to establish a Revolutionary line for descendants of Benjamin's brother John, brought out the fact that the D. A. R. insists that his son John is buried at Doddridge Chapel, Abington, Ind., where they have placed a D. A. R. marker on his grave.

Isaac, John's third son, in 1836 died of cholera while traveling from Brownsville, Pa. to Zanesville,

Ohio. In keeping with the custom of the horror-stricken days, Isaac was buried by the wayside directly from the stage-coach.

John's daughter Mary married the Rev. John Connell, lived for some years in Connellsville, then moved to Centreville, Ohio. There is no further record for her. Her brother George died young; her sister Hannah married Benjamin Stevens, but there is no further record.

Benjamin Fell's second child, his daughter Rebecca, born in 1763, married Wm. Beazell, son of Matthew Beazell, also a Westmoreland pioneer. In 24 years, Rebecca and Wm. Beazell had 12 children, and theirs became a prolific line. The parents lived to mid-19th century, Wm. dying in 1851 at the age of 92, Rebecca dying in 1853 at the age of 90.

Benjamin Fell's second son, Benjamin, born in 1765, married Mary Geyer and resided in Webster, Westmoreland County, with their eleven children. The third son, Joseph, born in 1767, lived but two years and was buried in Bucks County. Hannah, the second daughter, born 1769, married William Stoneman of Rostraver Township in 1796, and became the mother of two sons, Jesse and Benjamin F. Stoneman.

The fourth son of Benjamin and Rebecca Fell was Peter, born in 1771, who had a long service as a "local preacher" on the old Redstone Circuit. Peter was a farmer and blacksmith, and from a quarry on his farm, stone was taken for the walls of the second Fells Church, dedicated in 1835. Peter's first wife was Mary (Polly) Walker, who bore him seven children. After her death — at the reputed urging of his older daughters — he married Rizpah Barnes, daughter of Leven and Hannah Barnes, said to be members of the family who founded Barnesville, Ohio. Rizpah's

five children brought the total of Peter's family to twelve children.

The record of Benjamin's fifth son, Amos, born in 1773, is very incomplete in the "Genealogy". He removed at an early date to Muskingum County, Ohio; he was said to have had a large family, but descendants failed to respond to inquiries, so his record is very short, his wife's name unknown.

The three youngest children of Benjamin and Rebecca Fell all died young.

Benjamin lived to see a log church built upon the ground he had given; this was in what is now a front corner of the churchyard. He also was in part responsible for the Lebanon school, opposite the church, long before Pennsylvania had a public school system. No records are available as to the setting of his departure, but in April of 1811, he entered Life Eternal. His body was laid to rest in the ground he had given Fells Church, and in 1835 the new stone church covered his remains. Rebecca survived him until October, 1815, when she was laid beside her husband. Sarah Hayden Fell, whose life covered much of the 19th century, insisted that the last resting-place of Benjamin and Rebecca Fell is beneath the floor of the stone church dedicated in 1835.

One of a later generation, the late Rev. B. F. Beazell, D. D. many years ago erected a stone beside one corner of the church, that bears the following inscription:—

"To the memory of Benjamin Fell, a Patriot and a Christian; a Friend of Washington and a Friend of God."

It may not be amiss in the chapter of Benjamin Fell to insert here the will of his great-grandfather John Scarborough, who died in London in 1696, twelve

years after he returned to London from Pennsylvania. A photostat copy of the original will was presented to Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, in 1933 by Henry Scarborough, a lawyer of Philadelphia, a descendant of John Scarborough's son John, who had remained in the Colony. This younger John Scarborough was the father of Hannah Scarborough, who married Joseph Fell's son Benjamin (born in England) and became the mother of Benjamin's six older children. A copy of the will was received through the kindness of Dr. Jerome Shaffer of Swarthmore College

Though in his will, John Scarborough listed himself as a blacksmith, he was also a whitesmith and coachsmith, the latter a lucrative business in 17th century England. He seemed to have been prosperous.

**COPY of the WILL of
JOHN SCARBOROUGH, of London, England,
October 15, 1696 A. D.**

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Scarborough of the parish of St. Sepulchers, London, Blacksmith, being in perfect health and of sound mind and memory, thanks be to God, but calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye, doe make and ordain this my last Will and Testament consisting of two parts in manner and forms following (that is to say) first and principally I give my soul into the hands of God who gave it me, and for my body I commend it to the Earth to be buried in decent manner as my executrix hereafter named shall think fitt. And as touching such worthy estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give, bequeath, devise and dispose the same in manner and forme following: first I give and devise unto my eldest son John Scarborough for his life my two hundred and fifty Acres of Land, with the Town Lott which lyeth in the County of Bucks in the province of Pensilvania in America which said Land my said Son is now in possession of, and which said Land butteth at one end thereof upon

the Land of William Paxton and Henry Paxton and at the other end upon the Land of Nicholas Naughan (?) and my Will and meaning is that after the decease of my said son John Scarborough I give and devise one hundred and fifty Acres thereof unto my grandson William Scarborough for his life and to the Right heires of his body, and the other hundred Acres residue of the said Two hundred and ffifty (sic) acres to be at the sole disposall of my said son John. And as for all my personall Estate here in England which consists of ready money, bonds, bills, debts, securities, goods, household stuffs, Chattles and Implements of my trade whatsoever I give and bequeath the same to my dear and loveing wife Sarah Scarborough during her life for her use, she paying and satisfying thereout my funerall charges and all such Debts as I shall owe to any person or persons without delay, And also desiring my said wife give the residue of what she shall leave at her decease to my Son William Scarborough and my Daughter Elizabeth Scarborough to be equally divided between them share and share alike. And of this my last Will and Testament I make and ordain my said Dear and loveing wife Sarah Scarborough my full and whole executrix, and I doe hereby revoake and annul all former Wills and Testament by me at (sic) any time heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale this ffifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred ninety and six.

(s) John Scarborough

Signed, sealed, published and declared
to be the last Will and Testament of the
above named John Scarborough in the presence of

(s) William Penn Jur

(s) Thos. Barnard

(s) Saml Harrison

(s) Robert Hutchinson (?)

Acknowledged before me by

ye sayd John Scarborough

(s Wm.) Penn

(Photostat copy of original presented to Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, in 1933 by Henry Scarborough, a lawyer of Philadelphia, a descendant of this John Scarborough's son John. Copy received through Dr. Jerome Shaffer of Swarthmore College.)

TRUE AND COMPLETE
PORTRAITURE OF METHODISM;
OR THE HISTORY OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODISTS:
INCLUDING
THEIR RISE, PROGRESS, AND PRESENT STATE: THE LIVES
AND CHARACTERS OF DIVERS OF THEIR MINISTERS:
THE DOCTRINES THE METHODISTS BELIEVE AND
TEACH, FULLY AND EXPLICITLY STATED:
WITH
THE WHOLE PLAN OF THEIR DISCIPLINE
THE DIFFERENT COLLECTIONS
*Made among them, and the application of the monies
raised thereby;*
AND A DESCRIPTION OF
CLASS-MEETINGS, BANDS, LOVE-FEASTS, &c
ALSO,
A DEFENCE OF METHODISM, &c.

-ooo9ooo-

BY JONATHAN CROWTHER,

Who has been more than 31 years a member, and above 26
years a Travelling Preacher among them.

-oooo9ooo-

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
Some Interesting Documents
RESPECTING THE EXTENSION OF THEIR RELIGIOUS
PRIVILEGES, BY A LATE ACT OF THE BRITISH
LEGISLATURE.

New-York:

PUBLISHED BY DANIEL HITT AND THOMAS WARE, FOR THE METHODIST
CONNECTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

J. C. Totten, printer.

.....
1813.

Purchased by Peter Fell in 1813, along with Methodism's very early record, "Methodist Conferences". Like most of his family, Peter read widely. These two heirloom books are owned by two great-granddaughters.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORIC FELLS CHURCH

Standing like a beacon on the summit of Dividing Ridge in Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County, is historic Fells Church, once the heart of the famous Redstone Circuit of the Methodist Church. The original Conference at Baltimore in 1784 that separated American Methodism from its British parent, established Old Redstone Circuit, embracing most of Western Pennsylvania and part of what was then Virginia (now West Virginia). Assigned to it were John Cooper and Samuel Breeze. Such was the response to their labors, that, before the year was out, Bishop Francis Asbury had crossed the Alleghenies to counsel with them, — the first of many arduous journeys for “the Prophet of the Long Road”. One reason for the success of these first circuit-riders, Cooper and Breeze was the fact that a devoted layman had been preaching in homes, barns, or by the wayside throughout the Redstone country. He was Robert Wooster, who settled at Uniontown in 1777-78 and began a wide preaching ministry, though he did not found any churches. Before 1785, preaching services were being held in the homes of Matthew Beazell and Benjamin Fell. Matthew Beazell, a Swiss from Basel, had come from Virginia to Westmoreland County in 1774; old spellings of his name indicate that he had taken it from his birthplace, the 2,000-year-old city on the Rhine. Matthew was a member of the military group, “Rangers on the Frontiers”.

Benjamin Fell, after serving as Coroner for Bucks County, and three terms as its representative in the Pennsylvania Assembly, became a Westmoreland pioneer in 1782. By 1786 he had received his land patents for the large tract he called Fellsburg, having by that

time cleared 120 or more acres. By 1783, Methodist preaching services were being held in both the Fell and Beazell homes and so continued for two or three years. Attendance was so great that Benjamin once found it necessary to enlarge his home to accomodate a "Quarterly Meeting". In the early days, these Quarterly Meetings drew people of all faiths and no faith; sometimes revivals followed them.

Benjamin Fell, a 4th-generation Quaker, had lost his "birthright" in Buckingham Meeting over same card-playing, also his espousal of the Colonial cause. He was a member of the Associators and Militia of Bucks County, an organization that pre-dated actual conflict. Family standing availed little with the elders of Buckingham Meeting and Benjamin was "cast out", despite the high place his father and grandfather had held in Buckingham Meeting. His integrity remained with him, and the memory of his character is cherished by descendants of the 8th and 9th generations.

The Methodist circuit-riders were welcomed by Benjamin with open heart and home. Not only Bishop Asbury, but other early bishops knew his hospitality. When a church building for "the Forks country" between the Monongahela and Youghiogeny Rivers was projected, the land for church and burial ground was the gift of Benjamin Fell. Later, when additional ground was needed it was purchased off the same plot from Matthew Beazell's son William, who had married Benjamin's daughter Rebecca

Dr. Van Voorhis, a historian of the Monongahela Valley, wrote of the first Fells Church —

"The two families, Fell and Beazell, in whose homes the first class and preaching services were held, cut the trees and hewed the logs for the first church. They whipsawed the materials for stairs and pulpit."

The first church stood in a corner of the plot, opposite the present Lebanon school (which Benjamin Fell helped found before Pennsylvania had a public school system); over the log church a giant elm threw its shade. The building of white oak logs was chinked, daubed and plastered on the inside; a gallery ran around one end and two sides of the building. Though under roof in 1792, the exigencies of pioneer life apparently delayed completion within despite constant use. When the eccentric evangelist, Lorenzo Dow, came to Fells Church in 1804, he prayed before a large congregation, —

“O Lord, here is a house that has apparently been forty years in building and is not finished yet. Put it into the hearts of this good people to finish Thy house and then gloriously revive Thy work.”

Soon tools were busy and with the finest of walnut lumber the log church was completed. A handsome high pulpit was built, comfortable pews replaced the slab benches, and well-joined oak boards replaced the puncheon floor. Soon a revival swept the countryside, adding many to the church. To quarterly meetings in the old log church before 1795, traveling over the hills from the Ligonier Valley, came a youth in backwoodsman's costume, who was destined to receive Methodism's highest gift. He was Robert R. Roberts, later Bishop Roberts.

Bishop Francis Asbury several times visited Fells Church and was a guest of Benjamin's home; his “Journal” records four such visits from 1803 to 1810. On the second visit in 1807, he ordained as deacon in the “local” ministry, Peter Fell, Benjamin's youngest son. Peter was ordained a local elder by Bishop Soule in 1830. He gave Fells and neighboring churches long service as a “local preacher”. John, Benjamin's oldest son, who had shared his Revolu-

Know all men by these Presents that I, Francis Asbury, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in America, under the Protection of Almighty God and with a single eye to his glory, by the Imposition of my hands and prayer, have this Day set apart Peter Fell for the office of a Deacon in the said Methodist Episcopal Church: a man whom I judge to be well qualified for that work. And do hereby recommend him to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to administer the Ordinance of Baptism, marriage and the Burial of the Dead, in the absence of an Elder, and to feed the flock of Christ, so long as his spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ. And he continues to hold fast the form of sound words, according to the established Doctrines of the Gospel.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seven

Francis Asbury

(Seal)

Done near Union

Pennsylvania

August 16th 1807

Peter Fell's Ordination Certificate as Deacon written and signed by Bishop Francis Asbury, August 16, 1807.

tionary experiences, was the "junior preacher" on Redstone Circuit in 1796, his senior colleagues being Charles Conoway and T. Hammond. Family cares soon induced John Fell to "locate", as it was called, but he was a local preacher with the Connellsville Church for many years until he removed to Zanesville, Ohio. His record is still incomplete, but the D.

A. R. in Washington, D. C. insists that they have marked his grave at Doddridge Chapel, Abington, Ind., where he died at a great age.

Not only did early Methodist Bishops stop at Benjamin Fell's home on their visits to Fells Church, but many noted early itinerants also enjoyed its hospitality. Among them were Valentine Cook, the keenest, most brilliant preacher of his day, presiding-elder on Redstone Circuit in 1797; James Quinn, a singer-evangelist of great power and sweetness; Thornton Fleming, whose long and fruitful ministry a bishop might have envied; Peter Moriarty and Lasley Matthews, once Catholics, who were ministers of power and blessing; James G. Sansom, of fragrant memory in the church after one hundred years; Seely Bunn and John West, with more than a hundred others, serving Fells Church and Redstone Circuit by two and threes. Exceptional high caliber characterized many of its pastors in the first fifty years or more.

The log church was still in good condition when the congregation outgrew it in 1834, and that year a stone structure was begun, its dedication marking the semi-centennial of Fells Church in 1835. Why the crowds? For fifteen miles north and south, from clear across "the Forks", people came not only on Sundays, but to the frequent week-day services that characterized the earlier years. In this period, too, the church was expanding, no less than six churches springing from the inspiration of those who had been members at Fells, but were then living in other communities. Though the Methodist Church of Elizabeth was not under roof until 1832, it began in 1790 with services in the home of Philip Smith, a member of Fells Church. In 1827, the Methodists at Monongahela dedicated their first church home, most of them hav-

ing been members at Fells. The first half-century saw other "daughter" churches erecting their own homes — West Newton, Fayette City, and Webster, with the Concord church an off-shoot from Belle Vernon in its first decade.

The "local preachers" made Fells Church a power in the early years. The first was the Rev. Richard Ferguson, who died in 1828 at the age of 60, after being a local preacher for 35 years. Though he died in another community, he was so deeply attached to Fells Church that his request to be buried beside it was carried out. His stone with its Masonic emblem still stands after nearly 130 years.

The next local preacher at Fells Church was Benjamin's youngest son, Peter, who was but a lad when the family crossed the mountains. Another was George Household, born in England in 1789, who came to Rostraver Township in 1819; he was an effective local preacher for many years, as was also James Davidson of sainted memory. John Sansom, a nephew of the Rev. James G. Sansom, was a local preacher at Fells until his removal to Missouri in 1854. Others also were in "the goodly company".

Fells Church in its first fifty years saw the transition from pioneer days to settled community life, as farms multiplied and hamlets grew into towns. It saw the beginning of Pennsylvania's public school system, also the beginning of the Machine Age. In things spiritual, it saw the beginning of the temperance movement; saw slavery become a burning issue, soon to divide the churches; saw the dawn of missionary outreach to a needy world; saw the beginning of many philanthropic movements. The few scattered cabins of Fellsburg have become a growing, thriving community of attractive homes with a modern school and a living church.



Fells Church Exterior 1890



Fells Church Interior 1912

The trustees in charge of erecting the new church building in 1834 were Hugh C. Ford, Samuel Jones, Manassah Reeves, Benjamin Thomas, Luke Beazell, Randall Johnson and Benjamin Beazell. The quarry from which the rough stone was taken was on the farm of Peter Fell, now known as the Reed farm, a short distance from the church. A Mr. Townsend supervised carpenter work on the new church, and laying of the stone was directed by a Mr. Savage. The extra ground needed was bought from Benjamin Fell's son-in-law, Wm. Beazell, whose father was a co-founder of the church. The transaction recorded at Greensburg read:—

“To the trustees of the Forks M. E. Church, 67¾ perches (strict measure). Consideration ten dollars — dated Oct. 9, 1834.”

Dr. Charles Elliott, editor of “The Pittsburgh Conference Journal” (established the previous year, which later became “The Pittsburgh Christian Advocate”), preached the dedication sermon from Luke 8:15. Fells Church stood as it had been built until 1856 when unhappy changes were made in the interior. The circuit preachers that year were D. A. McCready and Walter A. Bell; the charge included Fells, Concord, East Salem and Webster in Westmoreland County, plus Elizabeth, Dravo and Greenock in Allegheny County. McCready was the type who always insist on “improving”. Under his direction, a chandelier and lamps took the place of the candle sconces on the walls; the high pulpit was torn out, and new pews, less comfortable than the old ones, were installed. McCready was blocked in his plan to tear out the balconies, which would have ruined the building.

The membership then was large; besides the numerous Beazell and Fell descendants, it included the Stewart, Stoneman, Thomas, Shepler, Jones, Woods;

Jonathan Hayden, Foote, Todd, Finley, Wakefield, Reeves, Smock, James Carson, Dr. Samuel Birmingham, John Gilmore, Ephraim Anderson, Lewis McDonald, James and John Sansom families and many others. With such a large membership, expenses should have been easily met. The hospitality of the people knew no bounds, but they gave sparingly of their money. In the 1840s and '50s, Randall Johnson bought, lighted and snuffed the candles for evening services, usually held at "early candle-light". Benjamin Beazell bought the coal, heated the church, and acted as janitor. Instead of sitting by families, the men sat on one side of the church, the women on the other; James Stewart led the singing and kept the fires burning on the men's side, while Randall Johnson did the same for the women's side. William Woods seemed to have been the only member who realized that the coming of winter added to current expenses, and as winter approached he handed over to Benjamin Beazell his contribution of quarters.

In 1884, in the pastorate of Rev. W. C. Weaver, this second church building observed its semi-centennial, after thorough repairs. Drs. Samuel Wakefield and S. H. Nesbit were the preachers of the day. When all repair costs were met, fifty dollars remained in the church treasury. This semi-centennial of the second church building marked the congregation's hundredth anniversary.

In 1885, the Rev. Charles McCaslin was appointed pastor, the charge then including Fells, Webster and Concord; Smithton was added the next year. As the years passed, there were many changes among these churches, but in October, 1930, Fells Church elected to stand alone with its own pastor. Little of import was found in the records for the late 19th century except the renovation of the interior and the enlarge-

ment and re-fencing of the cemetery grounds in 1895. In 1896, in the pastorate of the Rev. A. S. Hunter, the church experienced the most extensive revival it had known for years. More than an emotional flurry, it went down to "bedrock" with many, to remain with them and bless the church for years.

In October, 1909, the Rev. D. M. Paul became pastor of Fells Church and plans were made for its 125th anniversary in July of 1910, with four days of services. Former pastors Judson Jeffries, A. C. Weaver and H. L. Humbert preached on week nights, Bishop David H. Moore preaching on Sunday morning. The Historical Address was given Sunday afternoon by the Rev. Dr. B. F. Beazell, a great-grandson of Benjamin Fell and Matthew Beazell, co-founders of the church. Dr. J. J. Wallace, the editor of "The Pittsburgh Christian Advocate", closed the celebration on Sunday evening.

Despite a seeming spiritual and financial decline, the church observed its 141st anniversary on July 18, 1926. New life and slow growth began in 1927 under the Rev. Miller Clendennien, increasing the following year under the Rev. F. M. Kees. A crowded Sunday School made more room imperative; accordingly, the old elevated seats were removed from the balcony, a new floor laid, and a stairway installed at the west front of the church. One of the old winding stairs was removed in 1927 to permit installation of a furnace in one corner of the church; the other stairway was allowed to remain, though seldom used. The renovations were made by the men of the church and the pastor. On Mothers' Day of 1929, Mrs. Louisa Woods, a descendant of Matthew Beazell, was honored by Fells Church on her 100th birthday. A daughter and grandchildren accompanied her to the service.

In July of 1935, Fells Church observed its 150th anniversary. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a large out-door pageant on the grounds of the Lebanon School, opposite the church. The pageant, "Days That Speak", was written by Blanche Craig, a great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin Fell. A crowd estimated at 3,000 witnessed the performance.

Steady growth has characterized the last quarter-century of Fells church, due in small measure to the growth of Fellsburg, but more to loyal groups within the church. The Women's Society of Christian Service, some energetic Bible classes, a good organist and choir, combine to keep church life at a high point.

The need for a better plant and more room were evident in the late 1940s. More than a year of hard work, both physical and financial, culminated on June 18, 1950, when Fells Church was re-dedicated. The old barn-like structure, dedicated in 1835, was transformed into a dream of beauty, impressing one with the thought — "This is indeed the house of the Lord." The ancient exterior is apparently unchanged, with windows on main floor and balcony and with two doors; but one notices chains across the doorways. A walk around the corner of the older church structure ends at the bell tower, giving entrance to the church at the site of a former window. Stepping within, a sense of reverence sweeps over one.

Solid walls stretch over the ancient doors, also the windows at the front of the sanctuary, centered now with a large chancel and choir-loft, on either side of which are graceful stairways to the balconies; the side balconies are fitted for business and social meetings of small groups; the rear balcony, with elevated pews, adds to the seating capacity of the church. The balcony on the lower side also gives entrance to the Sunday School's main assembly room on the third



Fells Church Exterior 1959



Fells Church Interior 1959

floor of the Educational Unit. A hallway from the bell tower gives access to several classrooms and two stairways on the second floor of the addition, also a stairway to the large room and kitchen on the ground floor, used for both junior classes of the school and social activities throughout the year. In the sanctuary, all the wood finishing is of light modern oak, the balcony pillars have been finished to correspond, and the small piano within the chancel carries the same wood tone. A lovely red dossal, over which hangs a lighted cross, centers the chancel, and at the front of the choir-loft is an electric organ, with chimes high on the wall.

Over more than a century, the walls of the original structure had settled so that it was impossible to straighten the windows, but they have been corrected by matching windows on the inside that are straight and true. All are in plain glass to harmonize with the old church.

The three-story wing of concrete block, which was sheathed in red brick in 1954, transforms the historic old church into both church and community center. In limited measure it was a community center in Civil War days. When the outlook was darkest for the Union forces, a great patriotic and prayer service in Fells Church rallied the country-side. On the new wing, a square tower houses a sweet-toned bell and gives entrance to both sanctuary and the new addition. On the tower, a lighted cross proclaims the church's presence for several miles; the tower affords a broadcasting service at Christmas-time. The wing provides a large social hall with lavatories and kitchen on the ground floor; it is also used for Junior Church and several Sunday School classes meet there.

The second floor of the wing, just off the sanctuary in the older section, contains a T-shaped hall, several class rooms, and stairways to first and third floors,

each with their own pianos. The third floor has a large assembly room with rostrum, also a room in the tower; this floor opens off the balconies in the old structure. The side balconies, one with a small reed organ, provide for committee meetings, also overflow seating when needed. The rear balcony has elevated pews facing the chancel.

Observing its 170th anniversary September 9th - 11th, 1955, Fells Church is beautiful and well equipped for service. Adequate as it seemed at its re-dedication in 1950, the church's capacity is already tested by growing Fellsburg. The three-story addition is largely the work of the members, both men and women, and their service cannot all be calculated in money. Had this educational unit been erected by commercial firms, it would have cost more than twenty thousand dollars. But under the direction of Bert Larson, who had previously transformed Benjamin's old home of 1782 into a lovely modern home that retained the old lines and many of the old fixtures, the work on Fells Church was skillfully done at a minimum cost. That it was done with a sense of reverence and the artistic is evident on every hand. Everything is the best of its kind, and working together so many days and nights has brought the membership a sense of being "co-workers together with God".

CHAPTER VI.

THE MERCER COUNTY FELLS

The pioneering instinct was strong in the Fell family from the days of Joseph who left the ancient home in Cumberland, England to come to Pennsylvania in 1705. Though the family had lived on the same English sheep farm for several hundred years, after Joseph came to America, his descendants by the hundred became pioneers until today their children and children's children are found in every State.

None have a more heroic record than Joseph Fell's great-grandsons, William and Nathan Fell, pioneers of Mercer County when it was truly "a howling wilderness." William and Nathan were the second and third sons of Joseph's grandson, John Fell and his wife, Elizabeth Hartley. To clarify the record, a brief resume of family history recalls that John Fell, in turn, was the oldest son of Joseph's son Benjamin (born in England) and his first wife, Hannah Scarborough. She was the granddaughter of John Scarborough, who came to Pennsylvania with one of William Penn's groups in 1682, bringing with him his oldest son John. The senior Scarborough returned to England and died in London in 1696, but the son he left here became the progenitor of a large line. His daughter Hannah married the first Benjamin Fell; her sister Sarah married George Haworth and became the ancestress of ex-President Herbert Hoover.

Of the six children of Benjamin and Hannah Scarborough Fell, John—the oldest, and Benjamin—the youngest, were especially close to each other despite nine years' difference in their ages. When Benjamin decided to migrate to Westmoreland County in 1782, he gave John the Power of Attorney to settle his

Bucks County affairs. It was not strange, therefore, that William and Nathan Fell should come west with their uncle, Benjamin Fell. An older brother, Mahlon, and his wife Rachel Pugh, had previously gone to Ohio, just then being settled.

WILLIAM FELL

William Fell was born in Bucks County on April 2, 1756 and died in Mercer County, July 16, 1841. His wife, Agnes Anderson, was born Feb. 15, 1761 in Bucks County and died August 8, 1820 in Mercer County. They were the parents of five children:—

Mary, born June 14, 1782, died in 1804 in Mercer County; married Timothy Dumars, who came from North Ireland in 1797, and was of French Huguenot and Scotch descent. They had two daughters, the younger dying in her early twenties.

George W., born August 31, 1784, died August 15, 1849 in Mercer County; married Nancy Ann Dumars, a sister of Mary's husband. They had five daughters and three sons.

Miriam W., born April 17, 1791, died Jan. 11, 1860 in Jefferson City, Mo.; married James Stevenson, a son of James Stevenson of England and Jane Canghey of Scotland. His parents came to Philadelphia on May 28, 1791, and after a few years in Chester County removed to Mercer County where many descendants still reside. Miriam and James Stevenson lived for forty years on a farm in Pymatuning Township, Mercer County, then removed to Jefferson City, Mo. While on a visit to Agnes Allen, one of their ten children, James Stevenson died in Mound City, Kansas on May 21, 1860 and was buried there.

Jonas, born June 25, 1793, died Sept. 29, 1849 in Mercer County; married Nancy Agnes Bennett, who died in 1869. They had ten children; their son Amos had as his first wife, his Uncle Nathan's granddaughter, Mary Fell.

Agnes, born April 18, 1796, died Sept. 18, 1880; married Wm. G. McKnight. They had nine children.

Arriving in Westmoreland County in 1782, William Fell's occupation was weaving in summer and teaching school in winter. Pennsylvania then had no

public school system, and each community determined the education its children would receive. In the fall of 1796, William and his son, George W. Fell, made the long journey to Mercer County and selected 100 acres of land three and a half miles east of the State line, then returned to their Westmoreland home. The spring of 1797 saw them again on their Mercer County land where they built a log cabin and began a settlement in a dense, heavy forest, 100 miles from any white community. William returned to Westmoreland early in July, leaving George, only 13 years old but a man in stature, to continue the settlement for seven weeks, when he returned home.

William Fell took his family to Mercer County in the spring of 1798. George started alone, expecting the family to follow in two weeks; however, some of them became ill and they did not start for five weeks. All the food George had was some cornmeal and the game he killed. Not hearing from the family, with a small piece of cornbread baked in the ashes, George started back to Westmoreland County. By that time other settlers were entering Mercer County, and when George had gone about four miles, he heard his family was on the way, so turned back to the new cabin.

George Fell was a boy of great energy, indomitable perseverance, and unusual power of endurance. A skillful hunter, he killed many turkeys, raccoons, deer, bears, etc. A knife with which he killed several bears single-handed and alone, was the possession of his son, Amos D. Fell in 1889, when it was then 100 years old.

In the winter of 1798, William Fell had contracted for 100 acres of land for his son George, a mile away from the family home. On this he had to build a house, live in it for five years, and clear seven acres of the land, which then became his own. When George

married in 1806, his father gave him 50 acres more from his own farm, on which he built a house. After the death of William's wife Agnes in 1820, he gave George all the farm with the agreement that George would keep him as long as he lived.

NATHAN FELL

Nathan Fell, born April 8, 1760 in Bucks County, died October 12, 1835 in Mercer County. On March 8, 1780 he married Ann Smith, daughter of John Smith of Plumstead Township; she bore him fourteen children and died in Mercer County in 1842.

In 1782, they and their family, together with William Fell and his wife, migrated with their uncle, Benjamin Fell, to Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County. They remained there until the spring of 1800 when they and eleven children journeyed to the wilderness of Mercer County, where William Fell and his family had preceded them in 1798. For the hazardous trip, Nathan Fell requisitioned 16 pack-horses, the only means of reaching their destination. When the pack-train came to Slippery Rock Creek, they found heavy rains had made the stream a raging torrent, so that the horses, with their riders and freight, were forced to breast the stream. Cynthia Fell, only a few months old, was carried in the arms of her 19-year-old brother John as the horse he rode swam across. She lived to see that wild country well settled.

Nathan Fell took up 400 acres of land in Pymatuning Township and built his log cabin three-quarters of a mile from the home of his brother William. The two brothers continued to live side by side as Nathan, extending his farm farther and farther into the forest, became the owner of 2,000 acres.

Nathan was of a jovial, friendly disposition and when he rode from his farm to attend Court at Mercer, or to visit his daughter, Cynthia Fell Yeager, he

was much sought after. His will bequeathed each of his children 200 acres, except his youngest son Jesse, to whom he left the homestead with 400 acres of land, which included a dower to his daughter Anne, blind from childhood. Aaron, Jesse's youngest son, occupied the homestead in 1891, and he and his brother Mahlon held the original 400 acres. The other farms were then still owned by Nathan's descendants.

The fourteen children of Nathan and Ann Fell were:—

John, born April 11, 1781 in Bucks County, died April 14, 1837 in Mercer County. In May, 1802, he married Catherine Campbell, daughter of Jacob and Barbara Miller Campbell. She was the first white woman to cross the Shenango River.

William, born Sept. 16, 1782; lived but a week.

George, born Sept. 7, 1783, died June 12, 1855; served in the War of 1812; married Rachel Campbell, sister of John's wife Catherine.

Elizabeth, born Sept. 25, 1785, died July 27, 1868; married Joseph Morford, a man of high character who became wealthy.

Martha, born Jan. 12, 1787, died in January, 1827; married Thomas McFarland, born near Harrisburg, Pa., the son of Robert and Martha Burnside McFarland. After Martha's death, Thomas McFarland married Agnes Dumars McKnight, the widowed granddaughter of William Fell, so that Fell women of two generations became his successive wives.

Rachel, born July 17, 1788; married Philip Waldorf, two children; marriage and death dates not recorded.

Anne, born July 31, 1790, died unmarried Jan. 22, 1859; lost sight in her childhood.

Rebecca, born March 11, 1792, died Feb. 9, 1845; married Elisha Fox; no children.

Benjamin, born Nov. 30, 1793, died in 1875 in Kansas; married Catherine Yeager, who bore him nine children; in his 69th year he was a cavalryman in the Civil War.

Esther, born Sept. 10, 1795, died Sept. 3, 1758; married John McFarland, a brother of her sister Martha's husband.

Nathan, born March 6, 1797, died April 3, 1813.

Mary, born Nov. 27, 1798, died Dec. 15, 1798.

Cynthia, born Feb. 24, 1800, died Oct. 14, 1851; married Michael Yeager, a veteran of the War of 1812. Both were noted for their high Christian character. Michael was a brother of Benjamin's wife.

Jesse, born Oct. 19, 1801, died April 7, 1886; married Esther Coulson; noted for his high character.

The hardships, privations and sufferings these Mercer County pioneers endured can be only faintly understood today. When they located in Mercer County, the only roads were trails through the forest. With neither highways nor railroads, no mechanics, no mills, no stores nearer than Pittsburgh, all their breadstuffs had to be brought from there on horseback for the first two years. All the tools they had for building were an axe, a frow (for splitting shingles, etc.), a draw-knife and an auger. They were so surrounded by bears, wolves and other marauders that for several years they had to keep their livestock closely housed at night.

In the more than 150 years since William and Nathan Fell left Westmoreland County for the wilderness of Mercer County, their many descendants have spread far and wide, numbers of them living in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Invariably they have been people of high character, industrious, and generally prosperous. They were a close-knit group, as shown by intermarriages with a few other pioneer families and their own distant cousins.

For a number of years they maintained a Fell Reunion in Mercer County, to which they invited other descendants of Joseph Fell who came to America in 1705. A result of three of these Fell Reunions was the family's first published history, "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America", compiled by Sarah Fell of Wilmington, Delaware, her cousins, Eliza Fell of

Philadelphia and Joseph Fell of Wilkes-Barre. The book was published in 1891, thanks to the annual Reunions of the Mercer County Fells and their interest in family history. Some years ago these Reunions became the McFarland Reunions because of the large number of McFarland-Fell families, the result of several intermarriages.

Several members of the Mercer County Fells have attended the Reunions held annually at Fells Church by descendants of Benjamin Fell, who came to Westmoreland County in 1782. Some years ago, at one of these Reunions, Mr. Dallas Beach of the Mercer group was a guest, and he brought with him a small Bible, whose front page said that it was "printed in London in 1619", which was only eight years after the King James Version became the Authorized Version. Mr. Beach, who was a direct descendant of William Fell's son, George W., said the Bible had been in his family for generations. It had therefore journeyed from Bucks County to Westmoreland, from Westmoreland to Mercer. As it bore no name of the original owner we cannot tell with whom it crossed the Atlantic. It may have come with Joseph and Bridget Fell in 1705, or it may have come with John Scarborough in 1682, and reached the Fells through his granddaughter, Hannah Scarborough, who married the first Benjamin Fell. It is now the possession of Dallas Beach's granddaughter in Warren, Ohio; perhaps it may last three centuries more. Its teachings took deep root in the lives of those who held it through the years and made the Mercer County Fells a worthy group.

CHAPTER VII

NOTED DESCENDANTS

Though the majority of Joseph Fell's descendants have followed the common life of most Americans, with varying degrees of education and wealth, a few have stood above the crowd. The legal profession brought distinction and modest wealth to some in various generations. Claiming only the middle station in life, "neither rich nor poor", Joseph himself was an outstanding citizen of Bucks County, a member of the Provincial Council founded by William Penn, and active in the affairs of Buckingham Meeting House.

George Fell, the youngest son of Joseph and Elizabeth Doyle Fell, was Coroner of Bucks County in 1775; a copy of his commission by George III, King of England, appears in the "Genealogy". In 1891 it was owned by Henry D. Paxson, a Fell descendant of Philadelphia. This George Fell remained a Royalist.

Joseph's grandson Benjamin was also Coroner of Bucks County in 1777, and served three terms in the Pennsylvania Assembly, including the special session of 1781. This was his last public service in Bucks County. In 1782 he and his family, with nephews William and Nathan Fell and their families, also a few friends, made the long journey to Westmoreland County and settled on the land he had bought from Leonard Echstine in March, 1782. He did not seek office but confined his efforts to clearing his 382 acres; by 1786, he and his sons had cleared 120 acres and he received his land patents from the State. The "Genealogy" confused his arrival in 1782 with the receipt of his land patents in 1786.

A descendant who won legal honors was Joseph's grandson, Jesse Fell of Wilkes-Barre (1751-1830), a

son of Thomas Fell and Jane Kirk. A man of unusual capacity for public affairs and business, Jesse Fell became Sheriff of Luzerne County in 1789 and served two terms. He put aside his Quaker inheritance to become prominent in military affairs and was made Lieutenant of the county in 1792. In 1798 he was made Associate Judge of Luzerne County, which position he held the remaining 32 years of his life. His large home was a gathering place for judges and lawyers. On Feb. 11, 1808, he made the successful experiment of burning anthracite coal in a grate. He was an ardent Mason and was buried according to Masonic rites.

Not only law, but the ministry and teaching engaged many of Joseph's descendants. A great grandson, also named Joseph Fell, was much interested in education before Pennsylvania had a public school system. Elected to the State Legislature in 1837, he did much to secure passage of the Common School Law. In 1854 he became the first Superintendent of Bucks County Schools, and in 1856 held the first County Teachers' Institute. He declined re-election in 1857, retiring to his farm, but maintaining his interest in education and anti-slavery legislation. Many escaping slaves knew his home as a station on the Underground Railroad. His genealogical work formed the basis for the "Genealogy of the Fell Family in America."

A teacher of more than ordinary prestige was Martha Schofield, a descendant in the fifth generation from Joseph Fell. She did much for Negro youth as head of the Schofield Normal and Industrial School of Aiken, S. C.

Among the earlier generations many, both men and women, became accredited ministers in the Society of Friends. being accorded that honor by their fellow-members. Joseph's son Benjamin was for fifteen

years one of the ministers of Buckingham Meeting, as was also his step-mother, Elizabeth Doyle Fell. Later generations saw many of Joseph's descendants become ministers of various churches.

Great numbers of the Fells were engaged in agriculture, many having acreages of considerable size; some combined farming with other pursuits. Many sought larger scope for their activities by migrating westward, and in the last years of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th settled in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, with others going still farther west.

JESSE W. FELL

Jesse W. Fell, who became one of the most outstanding and wealthy citizens of Illinois, was born Nov. 10, 1808, in New Garden, Chester County, Pa., a son of Jesse Fell and Rebecca Roman, a great-grandson of Joseph Fell's second son Benjamin and his second wife, Hannah Iredell, therefore a great-great-grandson of Joseph and the first wife, Bridget Wilson.

The New Garden community was largely composed of Quakers and under their influence and the simplicity of country life, Jesse Fell grew to manhood; his early training was manifest throughout his life. He attended the Academy of Joshua Hoopes in West Chester, Pa., afterward studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1830. Going to Illinois, in 1832 he opened a law office in Bloomington, and his name became continually associated with the city's growth. On Jan. 26, 1837 he married Hester V. Brown; in the spring of that year his parents and the rest of the family joined him in Bloomington.

One of the triumphs of Jesse Fell's life was the effort he made in 1857 to locate the State Normal University at North Bloomington which became Normal, Illinois. He organized and engineered the work of securing the university. In 1867 he succeeded in secur-

ing the Soldiers' Orphans Home; he contributed \$10,000 of the \$50,000 given it. That same year he stamped his temperance principles upon the town by having its charter amended to perpetually forbid the licensing of liquor.

Jesse Fell was the intimate friend and advisor of Abraham Lincoln, an efficient worker for Lincoln's promotion in politics and the growth of the infant Republican party. A born leader, of indomitable energy and tireless industry, he carved for himself a great place in Illinois, but constantly refused political honors.

He had been east during the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, and was roused by the frequent query, "Who is this man Lincoln?" Returning to Illinois, Jesse insisted that Lincoln must tell the country who and what he was. So Lincoln's three-page autobiography was born. All the books about the Great Emancipator are based on these three short pages. Jesse sent Lincoln's manuscript to Joseph L. Lewis of West Chester, Pa. with the suggestion that a sketch be prepared for publication in Pennsylvania newspapers. Lewis published it in the Chester County Times on Feb. 11, 1860. On Feb. 12, 1947, the manuscript was presented to the Library of Congress by the Rev. Robert Dale Richardson, of Medford, Mass., a great-grandson of Jesse Fell.

In 1837 Jesse Fell established the Bloomington Observer, now the Daily Pantagraph, published by his descendant, Loring C. Merwin. The deeds and philanthropies of Jesse were legion and his descendants bear witness to the heritage of character he left them.

Life in Illinois led Jesse to switch his religious affiliations from Quaker to Methodist, later to the Unitarian faith. He sponsored the Unitarian Church and brought to it the Rev. Charles G. Ames, its first min-

ister. In his later years he increasingly inclined toward his early religious training. Always he was noted for his uprightness, his moral integrity, his unfailing kindness, his constant desire to help others.

Jesse and Hester Fell had eight children; their third child and first daughter was Eliza B. Fell, who married William O. Davis. Their daughter Helen married Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice President of the United States, 1893-1897. Their son, William Green Stevenson, became the father of Adlai Stevenson, former Governor of Illinois, and Presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956.

ADLAI STEVENSON

Of all the descendants of Joseph Fell, none achieved such distinction, such national and international fame as Adlai E. Stevenson. Born in Los Angeles in 1900, when he was six years old his parents returned to the family home in Bloomington, Ill. Given a thorough education, part of it abroad, he went to Choate and Princeton, from which he graduated in 1922. He also attended Harvard and Northwestern law schools, and most of his career has hinged upon his abilities in law. In 1933 he helped draft New Deal legislation as special counsel. Later he became assistant to Secretary of the Navy Knox, and to two Secretaries of State. He was involved in much of the planning for the United Nations. In 1948 he became Governor of Illinois. Good governor though he was, certain corrupt forces prevented his re-election.

Much against his will at first, in 1952 the Democratic National Convention nominated him for President of the United States. Despite a spirited campaign and straight-from-the-shoulder talks, he lost to General Eisenhower. Though he won a great popular vote in 1956, he lost the Presidency, but not the respect of his fellow-Americans. He has since been very use-

ful to America in various capacities. His three sons, especially the oldest, John Fell Stevenson, have shared his ideas and ideals, also some of his travels. It may be that in the future one of them will bring lasting distinction to far-away Joseph Fell.

John Fell Stevenson at Harvard was a room-mate and close friend of the young Aga Khan, who succeeded to the throne of his grandfather. Last fall, John wrote up his distinguished room-mate for a national magazine.

The Stevenson-Fell line may be summarized as follows:

The Fells had lived at Longlands in the parish of Uldale, Cumberland, England, for at least 700 years, and had given the hamlet's name to their own home, repaired and enlarged in 1688, the year England saw a bloodless revolution with the flight of James II. The Capes were an equally old family.

John Fell married Margaret Cape in Uldale Old Church — the Church of St. James, on February 8, 1647.

Joseph Fell, the youngest of their seven children, came to Pennsylvania in 1705 with his first wife, Bridget Wilson, and two small sons, Joseph and Benjamin.

Benjamin's second wife was Hannah Iredell. Their son, Thomas Fell married Grace Parry. Their son,

Jesse Fell married Rebecca Roman. Their son,

Jesse W. Fell married Hester V. Brown; Jesse had removed to Illinois and opened a law office in Bloomington. Their daughter,

Eliza Fell married William O. Davis. Their daughter, Helen Davis, married Adlai E. Stevenson, Vice President of the United States 1883-1887. Their son,

William Green Stevenson, became the father of Adlai Stevenson, former Governor of Illinois, and Presidential nominee in 1952 and 1956.

CHAPTER VIII.

MISSING LINES: THE UNIONTOWN FELLS — THE NEW ORLEANS KENDALLS

Any book that purports to be a group record is apt to have minor omissions or discrepancies, and the "Genealogy of the Fell Family" is no exception. In a number of instances a line of Joseph Fell's descendants is terminated with the statement "No response", or "Decline to give dates", etc., indicating the one queried meant to be "a law unto himself". Such lack of interest in family history was responsible for a large group of Joseph Fell's Uniontown descendants being left out of the "Genealogy". They are the descendants of Ezra Fell, born in Bucks County, Jan. 24, 1778, the oldest son of Mahlon Fell and Rachel Pugh. Mahlon Fell, in turn, was the oldest son of John Fell and Elizabeth Hartley; John Fell was the oldest son of Joseph Fell's second son, Benjamin, whose first wife was Hannah Scarborough. His parents, Mahlon and Rachel, moved to Ohio in the 1790s.

For more than 25 years the descendants of Benjamin Fell held an annual reunion at historic Fells Church, founded by Benjamin in Westmoreland County. To the Reunion of 1937 came Mrs. Marjorie Fell Roby and three of her daughters from Uniontown. They knew themselves to be the descendants of Benjamin Fell's brother John and were anxious to establish certain relationships that would enable them to become members of the D. A. R. They already belonged to the Daughters of 1812.

Considerable correspondence ensued with Mrs. Roby's daughters, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Goodwin, also Mrs. Goodwin's husband. They very graciously sent a fragile letter of 1859 from a George B. Fell in Bucks County to the missing Ezra Fell, known to be their

ancestor. The "Genealogy" records Ezra as "probably died young", but the fact is that Ezra and his brother, Moses Fell, lived in Uniontown some years before Moses moved to Indiana in 1818, though their parents were living in Ohio. Moses had married Nancy Collins in Uniontown in 1809. They located at Bedford, Ind., where Moses died March 10, 1840, a very prominent man.

Ezra Fell had married Susannah Warren, also born in Bucks County, who died in Fayette County about 1846. She and Ezra were buried in the Baptist Cemetery on Morgantown Street, Uniontown, but their grave markers are now missing. Mrs. Roby remembered the location.

The upshot of much correspondence and record-searching work in court-house, old family Bible, and old documents was that the D. A. R. accepted the Revolutionary lines I was able to give Mrs. Roby and her daughters, three of whom, with herself, have passed away. The following record has been established for Ezra Fell and his descendants:

The children of **Ezra** and **Susannah Fell** were Rachel, Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, Mahlon. **Rachel** married Daniel Collins of Fayette County. Their children were Matilda, John and Thomas Collins. **Mary** married Mahlon Grant and had a son, also Mahlon; widowed, married John Brown, said to have moved to Alabama. No birth or death dates for either of these. **Elizabeth** died when a small child in 1820. **Mahlon**, youngest child and only son, born Dec. 7, 1817, died April 20, 1839; in 1836 married Lydia Williams, born April 22, 1820, died July 24, 1907. Both died in Hopwood and were buried in Devan Cemetery.

The children of Mahlon and Lydia Fell were Susan, Charles, Elizabeth, Anna Mariah, Ezra, John W., Emily Jane, Arthilla, Joseph, Marjorie, John William, Walter. **Susan**, born Dec. 7, 1837, died Dec. 4, 1900; on Feb. 20, 1862 married Harvey Sutton, born April 21, 1838, died July 5, 1918. **Charles** lived but 18 months. **Elizabeth**, born Feb. 10, 1841, died Aug. 26, 1915; on March 22, 1864, married Wm. Kis-

singer, born Oct. 11, 1838, died Oct. 1, 1932. **Anna Mariah**, born Jan. 29, 1843, died Nov. 25, 1918; married April 20, 1862 to Joseph McCoy, born Oct. 10, 1842, died Aug. 10, 1932. **Ezra**, born March 19, 1846, died Sept. 21, 1901; married Oct. 31, 1878 to Sarah Whoolery, born March 4, 1850, died May 8, 1931. **John W.** lived less than a year. **Emily Jane**, about 7 years. **Arthilla**, born May 10, 1853, died May 11, 1925; on April 20, 1876 married William Devan, born 1847, died Jan. 23, 1901. **Joseph** lived but a few months. **Marjorie**, born Oct. 4, 1857, died Dec. 9, 1945; on March 20, 1879 married Isaac Given Roby, born March 29, 1857, died Sept. 21, 1936. **John William**, born April 9, 1860, died Sept. 20, 1909; in 1888 married Elizabeth Hare, born Oct. 21, 1868, died Nov. 24, 1931. **Walter**, born May 12, 1863, lived less than a year.

The following record of the children and grandchildren of **Marjorie Fell Roby** and **Isaac Given Roby** was arranged by **Mrs. Anna Roby Snow**.

Jennie Gertrude Roby, born May 24, 1880; married Oct. 2, 1897 to Franklin Bute O'Neal, born Jan. 21, 1877. Their son **Ira Donald O'Neal** was born July 2, 1899.

Mabel Estelle Roby, born March 24, 1882, married June 21, 1904 to Thomas Francis Goodwin, born Dec. 11, 1878. Their son, **Francis Edmund Goodwin** was born July 29, 1916.

Hester Anna Roby, born July 5, 1884, married Paul Donaldson Snow, born March 13, 1884, on July 12, 1909. Their daughter, **Marjorie Adelaide Snow** was born Dec. 13, 1910.

Isaac Francis Roby, born Oct. 12, 1886, on Feb. 11, 1911 was married to Gertrude Agnes Jeffrey, born April 27, 1885. Their son, **James Roby**, born Feb. 19, 1912, died April 2, 1924. Other children were **Kenneth Roby**, born July 5, 1913; **Mary Ruth Roby**, born May 22, 1915; **John Paul Roby**, born Jan. 6, 1917, and **George Warren Roby**, born Dec. 8, 1917.

Lydia Ellen Roby, born March 17, 1889, on Dec. 22, 1924 married Abram T. Moser, born Sept. 29, 1884, died Nov. 27, 1935. Their daughter, **Catherine Elaine Moser**, was born Feb. 5, 1926. Their son, **Paul Custer Moser**, was born April 10, 1930. (Custer is a family name).

Mary Alice Roby, born May 31, 1892, married Thomas Lyons Morgan, born Sept. 29, 1885, on Aug. 14, 1918. No children.

Bessie Violet Roby, born May 26, 1895, was married April 7, 1916 to John Rogers Henniman. Three sons were

born to them — **Robert Roby Henniman**, Jan. 25, 1917; **John Rogers Henniman, Jr.**, Oct. 18, 1918; **Ralph Given Henniman**, Oct. 4, 1920.

Paul Given Roby, born April 6, 1897, was married in 1919 to Rhea Crawford, born June 11, 1903. Their son, **Paul Harold Roby**, born June 10, 1920, died Dec. 26, 1932. Their other children were **Maxine Loraine Roby**, born Feb. 3, 1922; **Alice Eleanor Roby**, born April 3, 1924; **William Russell Roby**, born June 26, 1925; **Isaac Given Roby II**, born March 26, 1927; **Donald James Roby**, born Oct. 17, 1928; **Robert Lee Roby**, born Nov. 20, 1932; **Marjorie Jeane Roby**, born June 6, 1936.

Mildred Grace Roby, born Aug. 24, 1900, on Jan. 22, 1925 married Guy Cornelius Mahoney, born April 10, 1894. Their sons were **David Paul Mahoney**, born Jan. 28, 1926; **Guy Eugene Mahoney**, born March 10, 1929.

It seemed only fair to list this genealogy of Ezra Fell's line in this book even though "Pennsylvania Heritage" is historical rather than genealogical.

The Fell-Kendall line follows. It seems tragedy that the very interesting contacts had with George Kendall Shaw broke so suddenly. He had written that many of the Kendalls were in northern Louisiana and a group of fifty or more were living in Texas. Several were college professors.

THE MISSING FELL-KENDALL LINE

Carrying on the line of Benjamin Fell and Rebecca Castner in the "Genealogy", one comes to the family of Peter Fell, who had seven children by his first wife, Mary Walker, and five by his second wife, Rizpah Barnes. The children are all listed first on page 64, and the fifth one is Delilah Fell, born 1805, who married George Kendall. No particulars are given as to the Kendall family. On page 136 is again the record of Delilah's birth and marriage, followed by the statement:—

"They resided in New Orleans, La. and had children, but we have been unable to find them."

It was family tradition that Delilah had gone with her husband to New Orleans, though according to an old bill-head I once saw, they must have stopped at Cincinnati on the way down. After seeing an old letter written by George W. Kendall to his Uncle Benjamin Fell of Webster, Pa., on Jan. 4, 1877, I felt that some of the family must still be living in New Orleans. I wrote the post-master there asking him to hand the enclosed letter of July 7, 1926 to any relative of George W. Kendall. The letter was received by Shelby Kendall, evidently an old man and not much of a letter-writer, so it did not reach anyone interested until after Shelby's death when it fell into the hands of George Kendall Shaw, Delilah's great-grandson. A delightful correspondence ensued, suddenly broken off, probably by death. However, much was learned about the Kendall family. Delilah Kendall had scheduled a visit to her relatives in Western Pennsylvania, but just then the Civil War burst into flame, and the trip was never made.

Delilah's husband, George Morton Kendall died of yellow fever in 1847 at the age of 47, and was buried in the Girod Street Cemetery in New Orleans. Their children were six in number, long since deceased. They were Theophilus Kendall, who never married; James S. Kendall, who had two daughters and three sons,—Shelby, Beauregard, and Charles Johnson. A third son was Peter Fell Kendall, who had a son by his first wife, a daughter, Lauretta Kendall Will, by his second wife, and a son, Frederick Cook Kendall, by his third wife. Elma Kendall, who married Abram (or Abraham) Dick, had two sons, Lee, then (1942) residing in Texas; the other son was dead. Caroline Kendall married William Carey; their son was Wm. Carey, Jr.; their daughter was Lillian Carey, and they resided in North Louisiana. George W. Kendall,

the grandfather of G. Kendall Shaw, married Prudence Roberts. They had eleven children, three of whom were living in 1942. They were George W. Kendall II and Carrie Kendall Currie, both residing in Texas; Lottie Kendall Shaw, mother of G. Kendall Shaw of New Orleans.

The Kendall family became a prolific one and a prosperous one, with many members now in North Louisiana and Texas as well as in and about New Orleans. George W. Kendall, who was an officer in the Union Navy during the Civil War and was with Admiral Farragut at the battle of New Orleans, seems to have been the most articulate member of the family. He founded and furnished one of the Methodist Churches of the city, was active in Masonic and Union Veterans affairs, was admitted to the Louisiana bar in 1869 and became well known in the courts of the city and state, though most of his practice was concerned with the settling of claims entailed by the Civil War. For that he had to spend about six months of each year in Washington until a few years before his death. Pneumonia carried him off at 67 years, 65 of which he had spent in New Orleans; he was born in Fayette City, Pa., then called Cookstown.

Trace of the missing Kendall family should have been found in the 1870s through a letter George W. Kendall wrote to his uncle, Benjamin Fell of Webster, while on one of his Washington trips. "Uncle Bennie" was slightly eccentric and disliked writing letters, so the letter from George W. Kendall was never answered. The letter is as follows:

Benjamin Fell, Esq.,
Webster, Westmoreland County, Penn.

Washington, D. C.
January 4, 1877.

Dear Uncle:

I passed through Pittsburgh on the 31 of last month on my way to this City, and would have been greatly pleased

could I have had the pleasure of visiting you; but I could not learn from any of the conductors of the road how I could reach Webster.

I shall, however, endeavor to find the way, and on my return to New Orleans stop and spend an hour or two with you. My dear mother, who is now dead (your sister Delilah) so often spoke to me of you, and she would have visited you in 1861 had it not been for the breaking out of hostilities between the two sections of our country.

I have a darling little girl named for mother and, I think, looks like her; in fact, all our girls look like mother, and in disposition so much so that persons who knew her and know the children sometimes speak of it.

My eldest sister, Caroline, is dead; the second, Elma, and her husband, Abram Dick, are living in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. Brother James is in New Orleans, also brothers Fell and Theophilus. Fell is a widower with one son. My oldest daughter, Mabel, was named by mother, and her disposition, so gentle and sweet, so often reminds me of mother who, I think, was one of the best, most perfect and saint-like women that ever lived.

I hope you are enjoying life's blessings and may continue to do so for many years.

Will you write me and direct how I can reach your place of residence. I am here attending some cases before the United States Court of Claims, and will remain for some months.

May God bless you is the prayer of your nephew.

(Signed) George W. Kendall.

Direct your letter to George W. Kendall, Attorney-at-law, Washington, D. C.

Much material on the Kendall family was sent by G. Kendall Shaw that cannot be used here. In 1951, many of the old family papers were given to Gertrude Luise Fellon, a German war widow, wife of Ernest Fellon, a great-grandson of George W. Kendall, employed at the Swiss consulate. She was greatly interested in the family history sent her, however, her letters stopped coming, ending contact with the Kendalls. Ernest was also of French descent and a veteran. The short-lived Kendall history stops here.

CHAPTER IX.

RELATED FAMILIES

FAMILIES ALLIED WITH JOSEPH FELL

As Joseph Fell's family grew to maturity they allied themselves with other pioneer Pennsylvania families, most of them of Quaker faith and British descent. Among them were the Kinsey, Scarborough, Pearson, Kirk, Watson, Church, Brock, Chapman and a few other families. Some of these had preceded Joseph to America in the closing decades of the 17th century.

Details on all of these families are not possible, but several must be mentioned. Three of Joseph Fell's children married three children of Edmund Kinsey and Sarah Ogborn, who journeyed from Woodbridge, New Jersey to Buckingham, Pennsylvania in 1716. Edmund Kinsey is thought to have been of Welsh origin but was a staunch Quaker. The family's possessions were moved in carts, their cattle driven before them as they crossed the Delaware River near the present Trenton. Enroute, Edmund Kinsey walked to the Falls Quaker Meeting where he preached to the people, then hurried after his family. He had purchased from William Penn a tract of forest, of which only a small portion had been cleared by the Indians; this served for a garden till more land could be cleared. Edmund Kinsey was one of the best mechanics in the country, and became an approved minister of Buckingham Meeting in 1717. In addition to the first three Fell-Kinsey marriages, there were later ones between the descendants of Joseph and Edmund.

The marriage of Joseph Fell's second son, Benjamin, carried the Pennsylvania lines of his descendants back to 1682, for Benjamin's first wife, Hannah Scarborough, was a granddaughter of John Scarborough,

who came with William Penn in 1682. He brought with him his oldest son John, then a young lad. Father and son knew much hardship at first in wresting a living from virgin soil with neither horse nor plow; sometimes they had to depend on the plentiful wild pigeons for their food. The Indians were very kind to them and often gave them food they had prepared. When, in two years, John, Sr., returned to England to bring the rest of his family to Pennsylvania, he charged his son to always be kind to the Indians, a request faithfully kept.

By the time John Scarborough reached London, persecution of the Quakers had largely ceased. His wife, who was not a Quaker, refused to leave England, so John settled down to his former business as coach-smith and white-smith, which gave a comfortable living in 17th century London, where he died in 1696. His will was witnessed and signed by William Penn and his son Thomas. Some years ago a photostat copy of it was presented to Swarthmore College by a descendant, Henry Scarborough of Philadelphia. His Pennsylvania property he made over to his son John, who remained in the colony with friends when his father returned to London.

John Scarborough, Jr. became the progenitor of a large line of descendants. His daughter Sarah, who married George Haworth, became the great-great-great-grandmother of Herbert Hoover, ex-President of the United States. His daughter Hannah became the wife of Joseph Fell's son Benjamin — born in England — and they became the parents of six children, the oldest John, the youngest Benjamin. Despite nine years difference in age, these two were always especially close to each other; when Benjamin migrated to Westmoreland County in 1782 he gave his brother John the Power of Attorney to handle his Bucks

County affairs. John never came west, but several of his children and grandchildren did.

Additional early Pennsylvania families allied with Joseph Fell and his descendants were the Blackfan, Buckman, Comfort, Ely, Michener and a few others. Wm. Buckman had come to Pennsylvania with William Penn in the ship "Welcome" in 1682. Like Joseph Fell, he had been a carpenter at his home in Billingham, Sussex, England. There were a number of Fell-Buckman marriages.

John Fell, the third son of Joseph, married Elizabeth Watson, whose 95 years did not end until 1812. The daughter and granddaughter of two Quaker physicians, her grandparents brought with them to Buckingham their certificates of membership in the Friends' Monthly Meeting of Pardsay Cragg, Cumberland, in 1701. The large Bible belonging to Elizabeth's grandmother, Eleanor Watson, bore the imprint of 1688 and the owner's date of 1690. It was owned by a descendant in 1891, no doubt still is in the family.

Of all the families allied with Joseph Fell, none were more prolific than the Kirks, three of whom married a daughter and two sons of Joseph; other Fell-Kirk marriages followed in succeeding generations. Their descent is from John Kirk, a son of Geoffrey Kirk, born at Alfreton in Derbyshire, England, in 1660. For more than 600 years this branch of widely scattered family had lived in Derbyshire, spelling their name in various ways characteristic of the Middle Ages. Their earliest ancestor of record was Edward Kyrke of Whitehough, whose daughter Elizabeth in 1431 became the wife of Richard Salusbury, Knight of Newton Burland. There are 71 Kirk names in the Fell "Genealogy" of 1891, but the Kirk Geneal-

ogy, a huge book brought down to 1912, lists more than 180 Fells.

In the third Fell generation, the Chapman family came into their line by the marriage of Joseph's granddaughter Ann to Joseph Chapman, a man of high standing and great integrity. He was a grandson of John and Jane Chapman, who came from Yorkshire, England, in 1684, and made their home in the woods at what is now Wrightstown. They were the first settlers north of Newtown. Joseph Chapman brought with him three children by a previous marriage. Until they were able to build a log cabin, the family lived in a cave and in it twin sons were born Dec. 2, 1685, giving the name of Twinboro to the place. Joseph and Ann Fell Chapman had fourteen children.

A many-branched, widely scattered Colonial family were the Pearsons, allied by several marriages with the Fells. Thought to have originally descended from one of the Danish invaders of Engand centuries ago, their American origins have been difficult to trace. A descendant, Mrs. Annie Pearson Darrow, who is a Fell, Scarborough and Pearson, has written a book about them entitled "Crispin Pearson", which lists a number of Fells.

Other interesting records could be shown for other early families connected with Joseph Fell and his descendants, but these are sufficient as showing the quality and character of these Pennsylvanians.

FAMILIES RELATED TO BENJAMIN FELL

As Joseph Fell's children found their life-mates among friends and neighbors in Eastern Pennsylvania, so did his grandson Benjamin's children find their husbands and wives among the pioneer families of Western Pennsylvania — the Beazells, the Haydens, and the Lightburns, and a few others. For data on the Beazells and the Haydens, I am indebted to

Margaret Colvin (Mrs. Enoch Colvin) of Monongahela, who is historian of the Beazell group and intimately connected with her father's people, the Haydens.

THE HAYDEN LINE

The marriage of Benjamin Fell and Hannah Scarborough carried the American lines of six of Joseph Fell's grandchildren back to 1682. Some of them, however, can date their American lines back to 1630, and 1620, — arrival of the Mayflower. On May 30, 1630, John Hayden and his brother William landed at Dorchester, Massachusetts, from the ship "Mary and John." They were two of a company of 140 who left Plymouth, England, under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Warham and the Rev. Mr. Maverick. William Hayden soon joined those who were forming the Connecticut Colony; a history of his descendants and his autograph are on file in the State Library at Hartford. John Hayden remained in Massachusetts, living at Dorchester for a few years, then removing to Braintree, where he died in 1682. He and his wife Susanna had eight children, and it was their 7th child, Nehemiah who, through his son Samuel, became the ancestor of the Haydens who — three times — married descendants of Joseph Fell and his grandson Benjamin. Samuel Hayden had married Priscilla Webb, a direct descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, thus giving the Hayden-Fell descendants the "early American" line of 1620. The eighth child of Samuel and Priscilla was Nathaniel, ancestor of the Fell-Haydens of Westmoreland County; their ninth child was William, ancestor of the Uniontown Haydens.

Though the Haydens have been content and proud to be "ordinary Americans", they have a long, knightly pedigree from the de Haydens who entered England with William the Conqueror in 1066. They had

an interesting, lively history for several hundred years and owned several ancient family seats, — “Cadway”, the home of John Hayden being handed down without a break to the present for 700 years! Other old Hayden mansions still stand in Norfolk and Hartford Counties, and the Hayden crest and coat-of-arms are still seen on the doors, windows and pews of many old churches. The Third Crusade (1189-1192) in which King Richard, Coeur de Lion, was the most important figure, brought into history the name of Thomas de Hayden, who was appointed Judge of Norfolk. In the War of the Roses, the Haydens adhered to the House of Lancaster; in the Reformation they sided with Henry VIII against the Pope. Sir Henry Hayden of Baconsthorpe married Anne, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, mayor of London. She was an aunt of the Anne Boleyn who married Henry VIII, became the mother of the first Queen Elizabeth, and finally lost her head.

In 1600 was born a John Hayden who did not support the Crown. A physical giant, handling a huge sword, he was a strong adherent of Cromwell and Hampden and fought in all the battles of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, but when Charles II was put on the throne, this John Hayden was beheaded for his principles. Not only were the Haydens soldiers, but the rosters of Oxford and Cambridge Universities contain many Hayden names.

From Braintree, Massachusetts to Basking Ridge, New Jersey, to Rostraver Township in Westmoreland County, this was the trek of Samuel Hayden’s descendants in the last decade of the 18th century. Long before the swords of their knightly ancestors had been exchanged for the axe and the plow; later, schools, scalpel, and myriad tools gave them their place in American life with little thought for kings

and kingly favors. In 1792, Nathaniel Hayden and his wife were among the founders of Salem Baptist Church in Westmoreland County, one of the oldest churches in Western Pennsylvania.

THE LIGHTBURN LINE

The Hayden line brings the Lightburn line into the Fell family. About the year 1760, a baby boy was born to a wealthy young couple on the island of Bermuda, where they had large estates. Orphaned when a small child, James Lightburn was raised by two of his father's sisters. The family spelling of the name originally had been Lightbourne. When James Lightburn was old enough, his aunts sent him to Princeton. While there, the Revolution began and he wrote his aunts that he intended to enlist in the Continental Army. They replied that if he did they would disown and disinherit him. Scorning their threat, in 1777 he joined a cavalry company being recruited in and around Princeton. In the Battle of Princeton the company was cut to pieces. James Lightburn received a broken thigh, but escaped capture by crawling into the top of a fallen tree and hiding there. His wound left him lame for life, but he was made a quartermaster in Washington's Army and served until the end of the war.

Immediately after the Revolution had ended, James Lightburn came to Budd's Ferry on the Youghiogeny River, two miles above West Newton, which was then known as Simeral's Ferry. He found employment as a ferryman and soon married Elizabeth Hayden, of the pioneer Hayden family. Their four children were Sophia, Lavina, Margaret and Benjamin Lightburn. Rebecca Fell, daughter of Peter Fell, granddaughter of Benjamin, and great-great-granddaughter of Joseph Fell, married Benjamin Lightburn. The first-born of their eleven children was Joseph Andrew J. Lightburn

who became a Brigadier-General in the Union Army. He became a Baptist minister after the Civil War. Various markers in West Virginia testify to the high regard in which he was held by his fellow-citizens.

Not only the General, but ministers, teachers, the President of a great Eastern University, and a host of folk in various callings were among the descendants of James and Elizabeth Hayden Lightburn, and of Rebecca Fell and Benjamin Lightburn. Later, two great-great-grandsons of Joseph Fell married two Hayden cousins, Abi Louisa and Sarah, bringing the Hayden-Fell marriages up to three. It is from Sophia Lightburn that Dr. Daniel Marsh, now President Emeritus of Boston University is descended.

THE BEAZELL-FELL LINES

Eight years before Benjamin Fell migrated from Bucks County, Pennsylvania to Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County in 1782, Matthew Beazell and his family from Virginia preceded him, settling in 1774 in a cabin on land owned by James Moore, and known as "Moore's Woolen Factory." From 1782 onward the two families became closely connected by marriage and friendship, and together they founded Fells Church in 1785. Methodist circuit-riders had previously preached in their homes.

On shipboard, enroute from Switzerland, Matthew Beazell and Katherine Smith fell in love and were married at Georgetown, D. C. before settling in what is now Martinsburg, West Virginia. Matthew Beazell was born in the 2,000-year-old city of Basel on the Rhine in north-west Switzerland. His family evidently took its name from its native city, as old spellings of the name indicate. Frequently the city's name was given as Basle (then pronounced "Bawl"). Located on the border of Germany, numbers of its people speak the German language. This led to the error in

the "Genealogy" of locating Matthew Beazell's birthplace in Germany; this error was continued on the memorial stone erected by a descendant many years ago, the obverse of this stone being shared by Benjamin Fell, another ancestor of the Rev. B. F. Beazell who placed the stone near one corner of the church.

In 1775, Matthew Beazell moved to what was known as a "location site" in Rostraver Township, which consisted of 290 acres. Coming with Matthew and Katherine from Virginia had been ~~six~~ children — twins William and Elizabeth, Matthew, Christina, John and Luke. Other children were born to them in their second home in Rostraver Township. Matthew died in this home and was buried on what was then known as the Pentecost farm. - *May 17, 1788*

Christina, the oldest daughter of Matthew Beazell, married John, the oldest son of Benjamin Fell. Through some strange error, her name was left blank in the Fell Genealogy, but the Beazell records confirm the marriage. John had participated with his father in Revolutionary activities in Bucks County and became a Methodist. At one time he was for a year one of three preachers on the famous Redstone Circuit. Later, perhaps because of family responsibilities, he "located", served as a local preacher and was associated with the early history of Connellsville Methodist Church. According to the late Dr. J. S. Van Voorhis of Belle Vernon — the "historian of the Monongahela Valley" — Christina Beazell Fell died while she and John lived in what was later known as the John Coughenour house. Two sons, Benjamin and John, were born to them; Benjamin married Margery Johnston, daughter of Israel Johnston (or Johnson) and John Fell married her sister Ann.

Sometime after Christina's death, John Fell married Elizabeth Meason, daughter of an early iron-

master, Isaac Meason,* about part of whose career there is a mystery. Early in the 19th century the family removed to Zanesville, Ohio; there the sons followed the iron molder's trade. Benjamin died in 1857, but his wife Margery lived until March 20, 1890, leaving 8 children, 48 grandchildren, 77 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great-grandchildren, many living in and around Zanesville. John and Elizabeth are supposed to have died there, according to the "Genealogy", but the D. A. R. insists that they have placed a marker on John's grave at Doddridge Chapel, Abington, Indiana. Many letters to people bearing the name of Fell in the vicinity of Zanesville have brought no response, so the line of Benjamin Fell's son John stops here. Descendants of his son Benjamin never responded to any inquiries.

WILLIAM AND REBECCA FELL BEAZELL

Rebecca, the oldest daughter of Benjamin Fell, was born June 3, 1763 at the family home in Plumstead Township, Bucks County. She married William Beazell, born in 1759, the oldest son of Matthew and Katherine Smith Beazell. William died August 1, 1851; Rebecca died January 22, 1853, aged 90 years. They resided at the Fell Homestead, across the fields from Fells Church. In 24 years they became the parents of twelve children, who were:—

Elizabeth Beazell, born 1784, died May 22, 1795.

Rebecca, born 1785, died 1875; married James Leslie, born in Ireland, 1762, died at Church Hill, Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1837. Their five children were born at Church Hill, and all five died there, unmarried.

Catherine, born 1787, died November 17, 1812.

Matthew, born September 1789, died October 10, 1856; married his cousin, Catherine Beazell, born April, 1791,

*Meason story on pages 104 and 105

daughter of Matthew and Mary Neal Beazell. Their only son, Henry Bascomb Beazell, born June 4, 1832, married Mary A. Gilmore.

Hannah, born; married Robert Anderson. (d3-1-1849)

Phebe, born Nov. 30, 1794; married Dr. Samuel Birmingham.

Benjamin, born Jan. 2, 1796; married Sarah Sampson.

Christina, born 1798; died unmarried, March 11, 1837.

Jane, born December, 1799; married William Neel Sampson.

William, born 1803, died Sept. 17, 1836; married Jane Ford a short time before his death. His widow, Jane Ford Beazell, later married the Rev. Peter McGowan, an outstanding Methodist minister.

John Fell Beazell, born 1807, died Aug. 3, 1876 at Uniontown, Pa. He married Julia Beeson Miller, daughter of Jacob Beeson, who, with his brother Henry was "proprietor" of Uniontown. They were English Friends, and descendants of a sister of William Penn. Jacob Beeson's wife was a descendant of Sir Charles Hedges, British Secretary of State under Queen Anne. A member of the Church of England, she later adopted the simple dress and speech of her husband's people. John and Julia Beazell resided in Uniontown, where eight children were born to them.

Eliza S. Beazell, born Nov. 1, 1808, died Aug. 30, 1831 in Marion, Ohio; April 9, 1825, she married Thomas Morford Sloan, born Feb. 7, 1801, died Feb. 13, 1873. They resided in Marion, Ohio until 1854, when they removed to Newton, Iowa, and in 1862 to Denver, Colorado; there Sloan engaged in farming on a quarter-section a short distance west of the city. Their land later became Sloan Lake Subdivision. Eliza Beazell and Thomas Sloan had three children.

*ISAAC MEASON — In 1955, Wm. A. White of the Pittsburgh Press, specializing in Pennsylvania history connected with individuals, churches and communities, published a sketch on Benjamin Fell and a second one on Fells Church, which he followed with one on John Fell's second father-in-law, Isaac Meason. Titled "Secret Wedding", the story is as follows:—

At Mt. Braddock, midway between Uniontown and Connellsville, is an old stone mansion, built by Isaac Meason, whose life was one of mystery, romance and enterprise. In his twenties, from whence no one knows exactly except that he was a reputed "gentleman from Virginia", Isaac Meason came to the western slopes of the Alleghenies before 1771 and settled on lands illegal to the white man under Indian treaties. On Jacobs Creek, in what is now Fayette County, he built a log cabin. When land purchase became possible he bought 323 acres, named his place "Mt. Pleasant."

Nearby the family of Lawrence Harrison had staked a claim, and in April, 1772, Catherine Harrison and Isaac Meason were married, but the bride, witnesses and officiating justice were sworn to tell no one of the wedding and it was to be five years before the marriage was publicly revealed, when Catherine, to establish the legitimacy of her 4-year-old son, went to court. History does not record that Isaac Meason served in the Revolution, but somewhere he acquired the rank of Colonel. It may be that the Isaac Meason in Gen. Wayne's army in 1776-77 was Catherine's husband, which would account for her concern over her son's legal standing. In 1777 she confided her secret wedding to her brother, William Harrison, who immediately started proceedings to establish her marriage status, and in April, 1778, four men were ordered to appear in court at Washington, Pa. and tell what they knew of the wedding. Thomas Gist testified that as magistrate he performed the ceremony according to the rites of the Church of England but said he was sworn not to divulge it except if legally required. The three other men also said they were sworn to secrecy. Why all the secrecy is something of a mystery; there was no hint of scandal, nor was the wedding one of impetuous youth, for Isaac was 30, his bride 29. Ru-

mors involved the reputed "blue blood" of Meason, but his origin and early life were as much a mystery as the cause for wedding secrecy. Revelation of the nuptials, upon which the court put the stamp of legality, had no repercussions. Nine months later a second son, Isaac, Jr. was born, and later there were two daughters one of whom — Elizabeth — became the second wife of John Fell. Meantime the Meason fortune was building. Isaac and Catherine lived happily until Col. Meason died in 1818, forty years after Catherine had gone to court.

The children of the brother and sister Fell-Beazell marriages gave a good account of themselves, as also did their descendants. Invariably they sought education and the church of their fathers held a high place in their lives. The Rev. Benjamin Franklin Beazell, a graduate of Allegheny College, became a Methodist minister of high standing. One of his sons, William Preston Beazell, Ph. D. became a newspaper man, was once one of the editors of the New York World. When he retired to Tinicum in Bucks County, he took over an 18th century farm, and devoted himself to research on the Fells. It is to him we owe a great debt of gratitude for giving us a true picture of Benjamin Fell's activities in Bucks County, and correcting some myths regarding his Westmoreland County land. It is unfortunate that in the midst of his research, Preston Beazell became a victim of cancer.

OTHER FELL FAMILIES

When Sarah Fell and her cousin Eliza began gathering materials for "The Genealogy of the Fell Family in America" they discovered several other Fell families with no proof that these were descended from either Joseph Fell or his parents. It is possible that all the Fells from the Lake Country sprang from a

common ancestry, but the patronymic was frequently found in northwest Britain. The following paragraphs indicate some of these other Fell families.

Owen T. Holmes, of Loudon County, Virginia, wrote that Edward and William Fell came from Cumberland England to Baltimore, "Fell's Point", early in the 18th century. Their descendants are numerous in Loudon County, with hosts of relatives in the west.

Thomas and Edward Fell, with Thomas' wife, Lydia Fell, brought certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Hartshaw, Lancashire, England to Springfield Meeting, Delaware County, Pa., dated 1714 and 1717 respectively. The following record probably refers to the same:

"1, 16, 1715-16 sold, to Thomas Fell, All that messuage or Tenement and Plantacon, where ye sd John Cadwallader dwells . . . excepting out of these presents a piece of Ground one ye side of ye King's Road which ye sd John Cadwallader allotted for a burying place, and to set a Mtg. House on, for ye use of ye people called Quakers." (Uwchland Mtg. House).

Thomas Fell was a signer to a petition:—

"To George the Second, King of Great Britain, &c. In Councill: The Petition of the People called Quakers, from their Quarterly Meeting, held at Concord the 12th day of the third month (March) 1735, comprehending all of the Profession who inhabit within the Co. of Chester, and the province of Pa. and the countys of New Castle, Kent & Sussex on the Delaware, in America. Humbly Sheweth."

This petition was on account of the boundary line troubles between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Many descendants of this branch of the Fell family are in Delaware County and in Philadelphia.

John R. Fell writes from New Orleans, La., that his father, Peter Runadell Fell was born in Orange

County, N. Y., was a merchant in New Orleans for 50 years, and died in 1882. His grandfather, John Fell, was a native and resident of Orange County, N. Y. His great-grandfather was Colonel John Fell of the Revolutionary Army; his great-great-grandfather was Judge John Fell of London, England.

(The Longlands Fells had a tradition that the Fells in and near London were of their own Lake Country stock.)

Thomas Fell, President of St. John's College, Annapolis, Md. wrote :—

"I only came to this country six years ago (1883). I was born in Westmorland, England. My great-grandfather grandfather and father were all named Thomas Fell, it being the patronymic of the eldest son, and all lived in the neighborhood of Ulverston (near Swarthmoor Hall), and later in Westmorland."

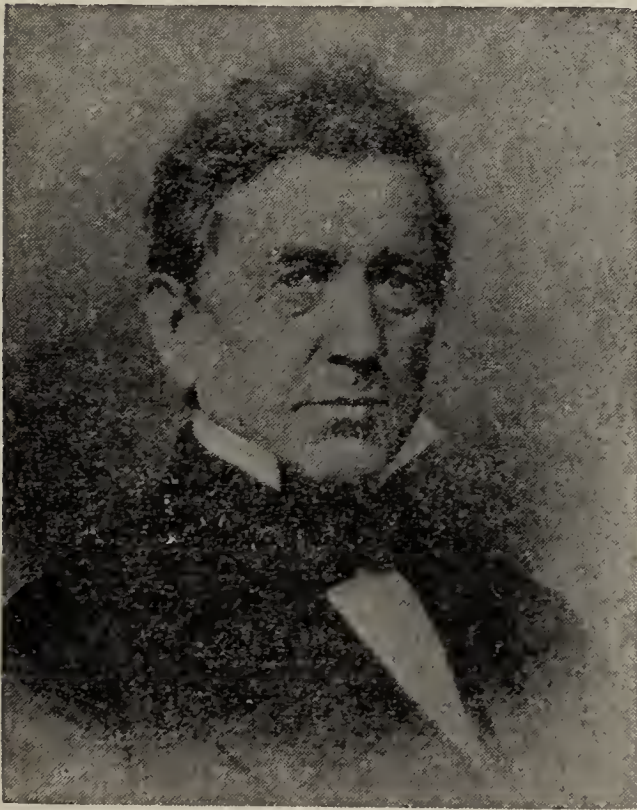
A German family of the name of Fell, numbering about 200 persons in 1890, resided in Trenton, N. J. They have a tradition that two brothers went from England to Germany in the 17th century.

In 1830 four brothers — Peter, Daniel, John, Jacob, and Christian — and one sister, who died without descendants, came from Bavaria in Germany to America. The brothers all settled in Trenton and their descendants were living in and around that city. They were mostly brick makers. Christian Fell, who commenced business there in 1856, was the largest pressed brick manufacturer in the United States at the time of his death in 1888.

CHAPTER X.

THE "GENEALOGY OF 1891"

The "Genealogy of the Fell Family in America" had its inception in the minds and hearts of three descendants of Joseph Fell who came to Pennsylvania in 1705 from Cumberland in England's Lake Country. They were Joseph Fell (1804-1887), Eliza Fell (1810-1891), and Sarah M. Fell, born in 1824, living



JOSEPH FELL (1804 - 1887) —
founder of genealogical research
in the Fell family, educator, anti-
slavery protagonist.

at Wilmington, Delaware in 1891. Joseph Fell was descended from the first Joseph's oldest son, also Joseph, by his first wife, Bridget Wilson. This Joseph was born in England. Eliza and Sarah Fell were both descended from Joseph's son John, the first-born of his second wife, Elizabeth Doyle. Sarah Fell, compiler of the "Genealogy", dedicated the book to her loved cousin, Joseph, whose pioneering genealogi-

cal work formed the basis for the history of a family that had been in America nearly 200 years. This Joseph Fell was dedicated to Education even before Pennsylvania had a common school system. Elected to the State Legislature in 1837, he did much to secure passage of the Common School Law. In 1854 he was elected the first Superintendent of

Schools in Bucks County; in 1855 he held the first County Teachers' Institute. He declined re-election in 1857, retired to his farm but kept up his interest in education, civic affairs, and anti-slavery agitation. His home was one of many stations on the Underground Railroad by which many slaves escaped. He was keenly interested in learning of his ancestors, collected many ancient documents, and contributed liberally to the Fell Book, though he died before its publication. One of his sons, David Newlin Fell, became a Judge in Pennsylvania's highest court.

Eliza Fell, whose home was in Philadelphia, traveled extensively in Europe and spent some time in England's Lake Country of Cumberland, where she visited Joseph's ancestral home of Longlands. She brought back much information, also the photographs of "Longlands", and a copy of the Longlands coat-of-arms, and presumably those of other British Fell families that appear in the "Genealogy". She visited a descendant of Joseph's older brother John, Mrs. Burgess of Stanthwaite House (mis-spelled in the book). Mrs. Burgess was the daughter of one of two Fell descendants who became ministers of the Church of England, to which the family returned in the 18th century. Eliza Fell's contribution to the "Genealogy" was a substantial one, despite a few minor errors.

Sarah Fell, the compiler of the "Genealogy" tells very little about herself. In the book's preface she hints at the hard work involved and the difficulty of getting the book published but insists that the book "was a labor of love without any desire for remuneration". In the preface she said that at a Reunion of the Fell Family in Mercer County in August, 1888, the history was brought to the notice of the Association and they volunteered to publish it. This Fell Association comprised mostly the descendants of

William and Nathan Fell, the Mercer County pioneers of 1798 and 1800, respectively.

At the same place, in August of 1889, the project came before the Association again, and a committee was appointed to have charge of publication as soon as it was ready for the printer, but another year had almost passed before the work was finished. At the 1890 Reunion, publication was entrusted to a new committee comprised of S. Fell Jones of Belle Vernon, president; R. H. Smith, Pittsburgh, secretary, and William Jones, Belle Vernon, treasurer. Their most persevering efforts failed to secure enough subscriptions to bring out the book, but their generous financial assistance, combined with that of Edward Lawrence Fell, of the publishing house of A. H. Sickler & Co. of Philadelphia, who assumed part of the responsibilities of publication, made it possible to issue the "Genealogy". It has long been out of print.

The book itself is a volume of 515 pages, 7x9¾x1½ inches, the front cover bears the Longlands Fell coat-of-arms. By 1891, the descendants of Joseph Fell since 1705, numbered nearly 7,000 with a few lines missing in whole or part. A similar genealogy today would require several volumes and be unwieldy. Two of the missing lines have been unearthed, but "Pennsylvania Heritage" is a history of a family — not a genealogy in the main. Preceding Joseph's line is a brief review of the British Fells — Joseph's brothers and sisters — to which I've added a trifle.

In 1947, a trip to England settled a query long in the minds of some of Joseph's descendants — what was the maiden name of his mother? His brief biographical sketch of 1744 simply said "her name was Margaret". On a Sunday afternoon in July of 1947, in a lovely old farmhouse in Ireby, I found Margaret's family name in the ancient parish register of

Uldale Church — the church of St. James on the bank of the River Ellen. The church building is a pre-Norman foundation; the present register dating back to the early 17th century, holds some transcripts from an earlier register and is kept in a stout sheepskin bag.

In it was the date of the marriage of John Fell and Margaret Cape, February 8, 1647. She belonged to an old and honorable family of which the London publisher, Jonathan Cape, is a 20th century representative. It is too bad that Miss Eliza's Quaker prejudices kept her from examining the parish register, for then we would have known who Joseph's mother was, also that his parents belonged to the Church of England before they became Quakers some time in the 1650s. Two baptisms recorded indicated they may have been those of John and Margaret's first children. Mr. George Park, warden of Uldale Old Church as it is known today, was custodian of the church register, and he and his wife Hannah have given valuable assistance in learning more of the ancient farmstead of Longlands, securing photos, etc. Mrs. Park's mother, the late Mrs. Joseph Fawcett, first gave me new information on Longlands and was very helpful until her death.

CONTENTS

The "Genealogy" contains a number of photographs, including four of Longlands, made from sketches by Mrs. Burgess's husband for Eliza Fell. In the front of the book is a photograph of Joseph Fell, the pioneer in Fell research. One page is devoted to illustrations of the coat-of-arms of the Fells of Dalton Gate, the Fells of Swarthmoor Hall, whose owner, Margaret Fell, widow of Judge Thomas Fell, married George Fox as her second husband, and the coat-of-arms of the Fells of Longlands. A Pennsyl-

vania history describes the latter; the lion, the bar above the shield, also the top, middle and bottom of the shield are in gold; the two cross bars are black, while the battle axes, one in dexter paw of the lion, two on the upper bar and one on the lower, are blue-gray. The battle axes suggest possibly an ancestor who followed Richard the Lion-Hearted in his Third Crusade. Like many families in the north of England, the early Fells failed to have their coat-of-arms registered, perhaps because of the distance and the bad roads between them and the capital. We wish we knew when or how it was given; certainly it was cherished.

The "Genealogy" also contains a photostat copy of Joseph's brief autobiography written in 1744 when he was 76 years old. In 1891, the original was held by Judge D. Newlin Fell of Philadelphia. It was found with some old papers in the attic of a house in Buckingham in which Joseph's oldest son had resided and died, and was known by Joseph's handwriting. It had lain unnoticed for some fifty years.

The "Genealogy" also contains photographs of Buckingham Friends Meeting House, founded the year Joseph came to Pennsylvania and in which he served until his death. There is also a photograph showing in the 1880s, historic Fells Methodist Church in Westmoreland County, founded by Joseph's grandson, Benjamin Fell, and Matthew Beazell in 1785. For years this church was the heart of the famous Redstone Circuit, is still a Western Pennsylvania landmark, and a live church today.

Primarily a genealogy, as its title suggests, this volume known to many present descendants of Joseph Fell as "the Fell Book", contains numerous items of historical and social interest. Joseph's descendants

were a "marrying group" in the main; second and third marriages were common and an occasional fourth marriage occurred. Many of the families were large, but most of them lost one or more children in babyhood, and nearly every large family had one spinster or bachelor. The pioneer instinct was strong in their blood, even when only forest trails led westward and north; today Joseph's descendants are found in almost every State.

Until the American Revolution, most of the Fells were active or nominal Quakers, as are a few descendants today. Colonial sympathies lost their Quaker birthright for many and they were adrift till absorbed by other churches. Methodism's westward march drew many, including Joseph's grandson Benjamin. Others found spiritual havens in Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian and other churches, with a few becoming Catholics, and a few Unitarians. Whatever its name, the church holds a large place in the hearts of most Fell descendants.

The "Genealogy" records the westward treks of many Fells in the latter half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th. The tales of some of these pioneers make thrilling reading as they made their way through endless forests, battled wild beasts, upturned virgin soil, and carved new homes and towns in the wilderness. Two of these, great-grandsons of Joseph, William and Nathan Fell, came to Westmoreland County with their uncle, Benjamin, in 1782. There they lived until 1798 and 1800, respectively, when they and their families became Mercer County pioneers. They left a large line of Mercer County Fells that spilled over into Ohio and the further west. It was their descendants who established the Fell Reunions that brought out the "Genealogy of the Fell Family in America." They prospered greatly.

The "Genealogy" contains a few errors of description of Longlands, mis-spellings, and sometimes of marriage partners. The village of Ireby is mis-spelled "Jerby"; "Stranthwaite" should be "Stanthwaite". The old home of Longlands is but ten miles from Keswick instead of seventeen, as the book states, but it is seventeen miles from the famous border city of Carlisle. The ancient stone stairway and diamond-paned windows were replaced in the past sixty years by modern windows and a wooden stairway in reversed position from the one of stone. Famed Skiddaw mountain is five miles from Longlands instead of a mile, as the book states.

Preceding the genealogies, the book notes several other Fell families in America discovered by the researchers, not apparently related to Joseph. Several ancient documents are also printed; they include the Certificate of Removal from the Woodhall Monthly Friends Meeting in Caldbeck; the wedding certificate of Joseph and Bridget Willson, which lists him as living in Chapel House, his older brother John having inherited Longlands; a receipt for passage money for Joseph and family; the deed for Joseph's 475 acres in Buckingham; the marriage certificate of Joseph and Elizabeth Doyle; letters from niece and nephew, Deborah and Nathan Leighton, also from nephew Joseph Stagge (elsewhere spelled Stagass), also the wills of Joseph and Elizabeth Fell. The letters indicate other correspondence, also a visit from Bridget Fell's brother, Christopher Wilson.

The book records many marriages of Joseph's descendants with most of the pioneer families of Eastern Pennsylvania, some of the inter-marriages running through several generations. Marriages of cousins and many brother-and-sister marriages among the pioneer families are recorded.

Scattered through the "Genealogy" are interesting incidents in the lives of various Fells, including the story of Frances Slocum, abducted by the Indians from Wyoming Valley in 1778 when she was only five years old. Her brother Joseph was the husband of Sarah Fell. For sixty years the family searched for her, and in 1838 found her as the widow of an Indian chief living comfortably near Peru, Indiana; she declined to return to Pennsylvania. More than once the record tells of a Fell suddenly stricken on a journey with cholera or yellow fever, and buried by the roadside, a seemingly brutal custom in the early half of the 19th century.

Divided into seven generations in the "Genealogy", many descendants are listed as soldiers, physicans, lawyers, teachers, farmers, ministers; several judges are noted. The book includes some men who reached high office; one, Adlai Stevenson, was twice a candidate for President of the United States and holds an honorable position today.

The book ends with the recording of those born in 1891; in the nearly seventy years since then, at least three generations — in some instances, four — have been added to the great host of Fell descendants. Joseph and Bridget Fell little realized how much they were to contribute to the building of a nation, when they left friends and ancestral home for Pennsylvania.

The "Genealogy of the Fell Family in America" is an enduring tribute to the three cousins who brought it into the wealth of Pennsylvania history — Joseph, Eliza, and Sarah Fell, also to the Fell Association who published it, at cost to themselves. It, nor this book that succeeds it, can be the last word on our forebears. Since the Fells had lived at Longlands for at least 700 years, it is possible that some ancient records might be found that would give us an inkling

of the life our forebears lived before the 17th century. Such a search would require time, money and endless patience. God bless anyone who undertakes it!

FINIS

